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Plainwell Middle School gymnasium dedicated in memory of Ryan Meert

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

A beloved teacher, coach and community member was honored on Tuesday, Feb. 3, as Plainwell Community Schools formally dedicated the gymnasium at Plainwell Middle School in memory of Ryan Meert.

Surrounded by family, friends, former students, colleagues and community members, district officials unveiled new signage renaming the space The Ryan Meert Memorial Gymnasium during a ceremony held in the gym where Meert spend countless hours teaching and coaching.

The ceremony took place prior to a middle school wrestling meet, a fitting setting given Meert's longtime involvement with the sport and his role as a wrestling coach. Holding the dedication in the gym underscored the connection between Meert and the student-athletes he worked with throughout his career.

"Every time I walk in this gym, I think of Ryan Meert," Plainwell Community Schools Superintendent Matthew Montange said during the ceremony. "And so it's highly appropriate that we should name this space after him.

"Ryan was a larger-than-life personality and had a larger-than-life impact on everyone who interacted with him. Ryan loved people, he loved kids, he loved his family and his community. He would literally do anything he could to help anyone.

"Thank you for everything, Ryan. Forever a teacher, forever a coach, forever a farmer, forever a Trojan."

Meert, a 1995 Plainwell High School graduate, worked for more than 20 years as a middle school physical education teacher and wrestling coach. He passed away unexpectedly on June 29, 2023, as the result of a farming accident. He was 46.

Lovingly known to many as "Hank," Meert was remembered not only for his role in the classroom and on the mat, but also for the values he modeled daily.

Family members, friends and colleagues gathered at the Plainwell Middle School gymnasium on Tuesday, Feb. 3, to honor Ryan Meert. (Photo provided)

Colleagues and community members recalled his calm presence, his willingness to help without being asked, and his belief that students grow best when they are given room to make mistakes, learn and move forward.

Farming was one of Meert's greatest passions, and he was happiest after a long day of hard work alongside his family on Meert Farms. He also owned and operated Meert Gauthier Concrete and provided snowplowing services during the winter months.

Above all, those who spoke emphasized Meert's devotion to his family. He and his wife, Shannon, were married in 2004, and he took immense pride in supporting his children, Mason and Mackenzie, at their sporting events and dance competitions.

Meert also enjoyed camping trips and family vacations to destinations such as Disney and Cedar Point.

District officials said renaming the gymnasium is intended to ensure Meert's legacy remains a visible and meaningful part of the Plainwell school community for generations to come. The space will stand as a reminder of his commitment to students, his love for his family, and the work ethic and humility he brought to everything he did.

As one district message following the ceremony noted, the tribute may seem small compared to Meert's impact, but it reflects the values he lived by — values often summed up in a phrase associated with him: Work hard. Play hard.

Otsego residents, your water rates are going up

By Aaron Mitchell
Otsego City Manager

Telling customers that their water rates are going to increase is never a popular thing to do in a small town. Many will pull out their torches and pitchforks and head down to City Hall.

However, it is the truth, and the City of Otsego is not shying away from that.

We honestly don't have time for hesitation or avoidance. We need to have an open and frank conversation about water rates.

The City of Otsego is in the midst of preparing for a significant water rate increase for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1. While we know times are tough and any increase will be felt across the community, we are also confident this is a necessary step to ensure the long-term stability of the Water Fund.

Let me provide as much information as possible to help everyone better understand how we got here and what this means going forward.

Please remember that this entire article is about water rates, not sewer rates. Sewer rates will only be increasing by 5%.

It is also important to remember that your utility bill is approximately three-quarters sewer and one-quarter water, meaning the water portion is significantly smaller than the sewer portion.

Below are a series of questions and answers intended to help explain the situation, followed by opportunities for residents to learn more about the proposed rate increases.

What have we historically done with rates?

The City of Otsego has always tried to keep water rates as low as possible.

While this approach was easier on the past "you," your present and future "you" are now paying the price through the significant increase being proposed.

For years, we have only increased rates based on inflation. That approach gave us the sense that we were keeping up with current costs without being excessive — or so we thought.

Unfortunately, the cost of running the Water Department has grown beyond the rate of inflation. At the end of the day, that is what this comes down to.

Where are we at with balancing the Water Fund budget?

The Water Fund is currently deficit-spending just to cover operations.

This does not include future capital expenditures, such as replacing or upgrading water mains or maintaining well infrastructure.

This is a dangerous position. At the current pace, the Water Fund's cash flow will reach a critically low level in less than two years—and that is unacceptable.

We must act now, before the problem becomes worse.

How do we know this is needed in 2026?

In 2025, the City hired a neutral third party, Bendzinski & Co., to review sewer rates due to upcoming costly repairs at the wastewater treatment plant.

As part of that study, they also reviewed Otsego's water rates.

We knew an increase would be needed, but we did not know the severity until the analysis was completed.

Bendzinski's review was comprehensive and conducted by experts in the field. Their findings made it clear that Otsego is simply not charging enough to sustain its water system.

In fact, our water rates are in the lowest five percent of the hundreds of systems they have analyzed statewide.

All available data points toward the need for a substantial increase.

Why is this increase needed?

Municipal water systems across Michigan are facing increasing demands and rising costs.

As your personal costs have increased, so have ours—including the cost of chemicals, which show no signs of decreasing.

In addition, there are unfunded mandates issued by EGLE requiring the replacement of all private water service lines made of lead or galvanized materials, all the way up to the home.

While the City has been steadily working to reduce this number, more than 600 service lines still need to be replaced.

At an estimated $3,000 per service, that equates to $1.8 million.

That alone justifies an increase, and there are other large capital projects on the horizon as well.

How much of a rate increase are we looking at?

Nothing has been finalized.

However, Bendzinski & Co. has provided recommendations that are currently being considered by the City Commission.

Water bills include both a ready-to-serve (RTS) fee and a commodity charge, and both would need to increase.

The recommendation is to raise the RTS fee from $23.37 to $42.01, and the commodity rate from $2.48 per 1,000 gallons to $3.59 per 1,000 gallons. These are quarterly rates.

■ see **Water**, Page A8

Child support clinic offered for county residents

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Individuals in Allegan County who are behind on child support payments or have a bench warrant related to arrearages will have an opportunity later this month to seek help without fear of arrest.

Christian Neighbors and the Allegan County Friend of the Court are partnering to host a Child Support Bench Warrant Clinic on Thursday, March 19, from 12 to 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Allegan, located at 1290 32nd St. in Allegan.

Organizers emphasize that participants may attend the clinic confidentially and without fear of arrest, even if they currently have a bench warrant related to unpaid child support.

The clinic is designed to help individuals understand their options and take steps toward resolving child support issues. Those who attend will have the opportunity to meet with Allegan County Friend of the Court staff, discuss their situation, and explore possible next steps toward compliance and resolution.

According to information provided by organizers, attendees may be eligible for referrals to employment programs that can assist with gaining or maintaining work, as well as guidance on managing ongoing support payments.

In some cases, participants may also qualify for assistance related to arrears forgiveness for debt owed to the state.

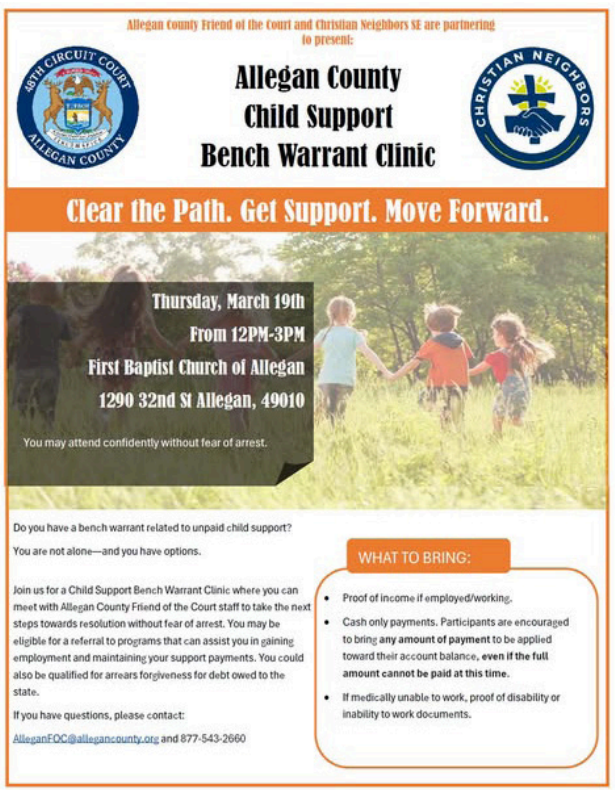
No registration is required to attend, and the clinic is structured as a drop-in event. Individuals who would like a reminder may sign up for a text or email notification through an optional online form, though registration is not required for participation.

Attendees are encouraged to bring proof of income if available, including employment or working status documentation. Cash-only payments will be accepted, and participants are encouraged to bring any amount they are able to contribute toward their account balance.

Those unable to work are asked to bring documentation related to disability or inability to work, if applicable.

Organizers say the goal of the clinic is to help individuals move forward with a plan and reduce the stress and uncertainty that can come with unresolved child support issues.

For more information, individuals may contact the Allegan County Friend of the Court at 877-543-2660 or by email at AlleganFOC@allegancounty.org.


Allegan County Friend of the Court and Christian Neighbors SE are partnering to present:
Allegan County Child Support Bench Warrant Clinic
Clear the Path. Get Support. Move Forward.
Thursday, March 19th
From 12PM-3PM
First Baptist Church of Allegan
1290 32nd St Allegan, 49010
You may attend confidently without fear of arrest.
Do you have a bench warrant related to unpaid child support?
You are not alone—and you have options.
Join us for a Child Support Bench Warrant Clinic where you can meet with Allegan County Friend of the Court staff to take the next steps towards resolution without fear of arrest. You may be eligible for a referral to programs that can assist you in gaining employment and maintaining your support payments. You could also be qualified for arrears forgiveness for debt owed to the state.
If you have questions, please contact:
AlleganFOC@allegancounty.org and 877-543-2660
WHAT TO BRING:
Proof of income if employed/working.
Cash only payments. Participants are encouraged to bring any amount of payment to be applied toward their account balance, even if the full amount cannot be paid at this time.
If medically unable to work, proof of disability or inability to work documents.

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An Evening of Extraordinary Outcomes comes to Allegan

By Gari Voss

The Anne Frank Center at the University of South Carolina, the Allegan Area ESA, and the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) have collaborated to bring an unforgettable evening to the Griswold Auditorium on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 7pm.

An Evening of Extraordinary Outcomes brings the powerful and meaningful film, *The Ice Cream Man*, to the big screen. The audience is invited to listen deeply, remember courageously, and converse compassionately while exploring stories of choice, resilience, and shared humanity when Germany invaded the Netherlands during World War II.

The short film, *The Ice Cream Man*, is based on the true story of Ernst Cahn, who demonstrated courageous resistance during the Holocaust and reminds the audience of the impact one individual can have. Cahn was a loved Jewish ice cream parlor owner who found himself targeted by Klaus Barbie, the "Butcher of Lyon".

An Evening of Extraordinary Outcomes will be at the Griswold Auditorium on Thurs., Mar. 5, 2026, beginning at 7pm. All are welcome to attend and learn about the heroics of Ernst Chan (at left), an ice cream parlor owner, and Anne Frank (above), a teenager. These two figures demonstrated extreme courage when the Nazis invaded their homeland. Tickets are available on the Allegan County Community Foundation Facebook page. Photos: stock images

Cahn and his partner Alfred Kohn owned Koco, and ice cream parlor that had been attached even before the war by the Dutch Nazis (NSB). The owners and customers formed a team that organized resistance activities. On February 19, 1941, the ice cream shop was raided, and the owners were arrested by the German *Ordnungspolizer*. Kohn was deported to Auschwitz while Cahn went to prison in Scheveningen.

Organizers announced, "Following the film, guests will take part in a guided conversation designed to encourage thoughtful dialog and reflection around courage, justice, and the power of individual choices. The evening will conclude with a dessert bar and an intimate, youth docent-led viewing of the Anne Frank exhibit – offering space to connect the film's themes with history and our lives today"

The special event is more than a night out, it is an opportunity to come together as a community, engage in meaningful conversation, and help create a lasting legacy that will impact students and families across Allegan County for years to come.

Tickets can be purchased at the Allegan County Community Foundation Facebook page. Making reservations will assist with concession preparation.

Wayland Dance Theatre hosted "Dancing with the Staff"

By Gari Voss
& Elizabeth Stein

On Thursday, February 5, 2026, the Wayland Union Performing Arts Center shone with dazzling performances by nine Wayland Union staff members and their mentors from the Wayland Union High School Dance Theatre.

The WUHS Dance Theatre program proudly hosted its second annual *Dancing with the Star Staff* fundraiser to gather funds for the dance class. "This fundraiser is for the WUHS dance class under the direction of LeighAnn Hill," interjected Communications Specialist Elizabeth Stein. "The money raised will go towards opportunities for students within class, such as inviting choreographers in, attending local performances, and participating in the Oakland Dance Festival."

This special event pairs students with Wayland Union Schools staff members who must learn and perform a dance routine. The teams then perform for an evening audience of students, staff and community members.

Judges Teresa Fulk, Liz Santana, and Katie Roberts gave performers pointers on their performance and congratulations for their efforts. Community members then showed their support by voting for their favorite performances through donations. It was this voting that earned $3,000 for the teams. This will be added to gate receipts.

This year, Kelli VanderGeld, a third grade teacher at Dorr Elementary, earned the mirror ball trophy. She gave many thanks to her student coaches Izabel Cassini and Adysen Pierce. Darrin Door, a science at WUHS, finished a close second place thanks to the assistance of Makayla Featherly and Kadence DuShane.

"We commend all participating staff members for stepping out of their comfort zones and joining students on stage," stated Elizabeth Stein, WUPS Communication Specialist. "The evening was filled with fun, school spirit, and strong community support, making it another successful and memorable event for our Dance Theatre program."

Wayland Union High School's Dance Theatre hosted the Second Annual Dancing with the Star Staff on Thurs., Feb. 5, 2026, to fundraise for the dance team's competition efforts. Above: The winner of the coveted Mirror Ball was 3rd grade teacher Kelli VanderGeld thanks to the coaching of Adysen Pierce (left) and Izabel Cassini (right). Pictured at right: In a close second was WUHS science teacher Darrin Door with dance coaches Makayla Featherly (left) and Kadence DuShane (right). Photos: E. Stein

Kudos also go to the other staff performers: Andrea Ford, Dorr Elementary Teacher; Leslie Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Finance; Christina Johnson, Pine Street Elementary Teacher; Caitlin Moritz, High School Teacher; Coralie Miller, Dedicated Substitute Teacher & Coach; Sarah Rollandini, High School Teacher; and Paul Goodwin, Substitute Teacher & Football Coach. The dance routines brought a touch of warmth to the blustery February weather.

Road commission announces projects

By John Raffel
Correspondent

ALLEGAN — The annual meeting with local government leaders sponsored by the county's road commission took-on a new wrinkle this year for the January get together.

This year the road agency held a meeting on January 7 for all township and village officials. Previously, the meetings were held on three separate nights. It reported that in 2025 it spent $11 million improving 131.69 miles of primary roadway in the county.

Former county commission chairman James Storey said in the upcoming construction season, the agency's proposed spending totals $10.2 million for improvements to 135.12 miles of roadway.

"The commission funds its operations through a mixture of federal, state, and local allocations," Storey said. "In 2024, the commission received $18,980,641 from the Michigan Transportation Fund, $1.9 million in road and bridge funding from federal and state grants, and from the combination of county and township road millages, another $12.4 million.

"Allegan County taxpayers continue to be the leader among the handful of counties that assess a road millage. This year the commission is slated to receive an additional $7 million due to state legislation that imposed a marijuana tax to fund roads. That legislation is the subject of a lawsuit by marijuana businesses which has prompted the commission to hold off making decisions on the use of those funds.

"Another change introduced this year, the commission will not seek township funding for primary route projects. In determining which roads projects are undertaken in a particular year, the commission relies on a road condition rating system, PASER, road history, safety concerns, and traffic volume. The commission itself is a three-person panel whose members are elected by the Allegan County Board of Commissioners."

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Come explore our Volunteer Fair, showcasing many nonprofits around Allegan County at The Silo in Allegan from 12-2pm.
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Building hope, one family at a time: all-volunteer pantry serves thousands in Allegan County

By Art Nicholas

What started as a simple retirement project has evolved into a critical community lifeline. For Harry Adams and Larry Boonstra, board members of Ladders of Hope food pantry, their journey from volunteer truck drivers to organizational leaders reflects the same grassroots spirit that has sustained this remarkable all-volunteer operation.

"I started because my wife was volunteering here," Boonstra recalled. "I'm retired and was doing the thing that most retired people do—sit around—and I wanted to get moving, and this was the perfect way to do it."

Adams, a transplant from the Chicago area, had volunteering on his bucket list when he moved to the area in 2019. Both men began as truck drivers, picking up donations and delivering supplies. Now, as board members, they help guide an organization that serves approximately 6,000 to 7,000 Allegan County residents annually without a single paid employee.

That all-volunteer distinction is perhaps Ladders of Hope's most impressive achievement. With just 15 to 20 dedicated volunteers, the organization operates regular food distribution hours while managing complex logistics, from coordinating multiple donation sources to breaking down bulk food into family-sized portions.

"Part of the reason we've managed well is we have this core group of dedicated volunteers that kind of stick with us," Boonstra explained. "I've read about other nonprofits and food pantries that have trouble keeping people, but we've got a group that have been with us for quite a while."

Roughly half of their volunteers have been with the organization since its inception, providing institutional knowledge and operational consistency that many larger organizations struggle to maintain. Adams estimates that about 50 percent of volunteers have been there almost since the beginning, with the remaining volunteers contributing for four to five years.

The organization's client base reflects the economic pressures facing many in the community. Seniors make up over 1,500 of those served retirees who discover that Social Security and savings don't stretch as far as anticipated in an era of rising food costs.

"We have a number of seniors that retire, hoping to live on what they've saved and Social Security, and they find that it's a little tight," Boonstra noted.

Others are working families hit by temporary unemployment or unexpected expenses. "We have a lot of repeat people that will come for a while and then they get a job and then they don't need us anymore," Boonstra said. "That's great—you want to see that—and they'll be working for a while, and then for some reason, whatever, they're unemployed and they'll show back up again."

Keeping shelves stocked requires a complex web of partnerships. Ladders of Hope receives regular donations from Trader Joe's in Kalamazoo, Hardings bakery, the First Presbyterian Church food warehouse in Allegan, and Hungry for Christ in Hamilton. These steady sources historically provided about 70 percent of their needs, though that percentage has dropped recently, requiring more purchases from Feeding America.

"Protein is the big thing here that we're short on," Boonstra explained. "We have to sometimes buy meat products from Feeding America to get it, whereas a lot of the other stuff we manage to get from our other sources."

The community demonstrates remarkable generosity during critical times. When the federal government shutdown occurred last November, donations flooded in. "You can't believe how the community came to our rescue with cash donations and just a ton of food," Adams said. "We had probably a couple tons of food coming here during that period."

December also brings an annual surge of holiday giving, though donations typically drop off in January and February—making spring and early summer particularly challenging periods.

Beyond the regular donation sources, Ladders of Hope benefits from ad hoc contributions from restaurants with excess food, individuals, churches, and community groups. For diapers, they partner with Nestlings, a nonprofit in Holland that distributes diapers to area food banks at no cost.

The organization's approach reflects its faith-based roots while maintaining an inclusive, no-questions-asked philosophy. "Part of our mission statement is serving all people equally, period," Adams emphasized. "You need food, we give it to you. The only requirement we have is you need to live within Allegan County."

They don't collect financial data or require clients to enroll in programs. If someone needs food and lives in Allegan County, Ladders of Hope provides it.

"Being faith-based, I think is great, but faith is a personal issue, something we don't feel you can push on anybody," Boonstra said, noting that most volunteers have some type of faith motivation but all are respected for their individual beliefs.

The organization operates as part of a network of 18 food pantries across Allegan County, recently transitioned from coordination by the Allegan County Community Foundation to Hungry for Christ. The collective organizes county-wide drives including a current peanut butter promotion, a spring cereal drive to help families through summer, and a fall soup program.

For those interested in supporting Ladders of Hope, the organization welcomes both volunteers and donations. Volunteers can fill out applications on the website, with needs ranging from drivers and warehouse workers to fundraising support.

"It doesn't have to be somebody that comes in to hand out food," Boonstra noted. "There are other jobs." Fundraising and recruiting more food donations were two areas of need.

The organization's signature fundraising event, the Ladders of Hope Bash, will be held May 1 at Fenn Valley Winery. Proceeds from this event have been crucial to operations, providing the financial foundation that carries them through the year.

Looking ahead, for the first time in its history, Ladders of Hope is proposing to hire a part-time paid manager to handle operations—a recognition that sustainable growth requires consistent leadership even from a dedicated volunteer base. The retirement of longtime executive director Mike last year has left Adams and Boonstra juggling increased responsibilities.

"We're volunteering and we're on the board and we're working on some big projects for this year, so kind of doing double duty—that's taken a toll on us," Adams admitted.

The organization is also exploring a major expansion that would effectively double the size of their current facility, designed in a grocery-store style, allowing clients to choose their own food rather than receiving prepacked carts. The board will be considering this proposal at an upcoming meeting, with plans for a feasibility study and fundraising campaign if approved.

"Allowing people the dignity to come in and pick out what they want" would be a transformative change, Adams noted, while also reducing waste from items families cannot use.

As Ladders of Hope continues evolving from its grassroots beginnings, the commitment remains unchanged: serving neighbors in need, no questions asked, with respect and dignity.

For more information about Ladders of Hope, volunteer opportunities, or the May 1 Bash event, visit www.laddersofhope.org or call (269) 561-5203.

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Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of February 9, 2026

Event information can be sent to: wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Sun. – Sat. 5-9pm: Warming Station when temp below 32 degrees - Community Action of Allegan County 323 Water St. Allegan. Come for a warm spot and a simple meal.

Now – Feb. 28, 2026: Peanut Butter Drive. Celebrate by donating jars of peanut butter or making monetary donations toward a bulk purchase peanut butter for the Allegan Co. Food Pantry Collaborative. Contact Hungry for Christ 269-264-1307 or Allegan County Community Foundation 269-673-8344.

Tues., Feb. 10, 2026, 9am: Coffee for Vets. Immanuel Lutheran Church 631 Grand St. Allegan

Tues., Feb. 10, 2026, 11am-1pm: Drop in Meal. Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan

Wed., Feb. 11, 2026, NOON: Leader Lunch & Learn. Silo. Contact ACCF.

Fri., Feb. 13, 2026, 9-10:30am: Great Backyard Bird Count. West Side Park 2152 Lakeshore Dr, Fennville

Fri., Feb. 13, 2026, 7pm: Timeless at Sherwood Cove. Sherwood Cove 132 Brady St. Allegan

Sat., Feb. 14, 2026, 10-11am: Ice Fishing at Littlejohn Lake Park with ODC. Littlejohn Lake Co. Park 3528 113th Ave. Allegan

Sat., Feb. 14, 2026: Littlejohn Legacy DUBZ. Littlejohn Lake County Park 113rd Ave. Allegan

Tues., Feb. 17, 2026, 2-4pm: Clean Eating Club. First Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Tues., Feb. 10, 2026, 11am-1pm: Drop In Meal
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
Enjoy a wonderful meal from Meals on Wheels and conversation with friends. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:30am with time left to chat. RSVP is helpful but not necessary at 269 303-0451.

Tues., Feb. 10, 2026, 2-4pm: Allegan Co. Sr. & Veteran Services
First Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
Learn about the services available in the Allegan area fro Jen Garcia, director of the program. This is for seniors and caregivers.

Tues., Feb. 10, 2026, 7pm: Sip & Spin Vinyl Night Down Under
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a favorite Vinyl to DJ PJ and celebrate with the 2-Finger Club

Wed., Feb. 11, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Sensory Play Day. Ages 0-7 can make art and play in bins.
2pm: Recess for Adults. Join with friends from The Arc of Allegan to enjoy activities and conversation.

Wed., Feb. 11, 2026, NOON: Leader Lunch & Learn
Allegan County Community Foundation invites all nonprofit leaders for learning and personal growth.

Wed., Feb. 11, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café
1st Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
Come during lunch and listen to great music, have lunch, bring your knitting or a guitar and join the open jam session. Music calms the soul.

Thurs., Feb. 12, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. Ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: Teen Art Hangout. Grades 6-12 can drop in and engage in creating a beaded keychain.

Thurs., Feb. 12, 2026, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co, 243 Hubbard St., Allegan
Come for a night of fun playing a twist round of traditional Bingo.

Thurs., Feb. 12, 2026, 6-8pm: Euchre Night
Lynz Golf Course 500 Lincoln Rd. Otsego
Nightly buy in, includes season ending tournament pot if meeting minimum participation. Individual players wanted. Blind draw for partners

Fri., Feb. 13, 2026, 9-10:30am: Great Backyard Bird Count
West Side Park 2152 Lakeshore Dr, Fennville
Assist in determining the Allegan County Birds. Register at https://outdoordiscovery.org/programs/#calendar.

Fri., Feb. 13, 2026, 3:30pm: Teen Heart Keychain
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Grades 6-12 can drop in to create a Valentine keychain.

Fri., Feb. 13, 2026, 4:30-8pm: Fish FRYday
Lynx Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Enjoy fried pollack (all you can eat) – served with fries, coleslaw & bread.

Fri., Feb. 13, 2026, 7pm: Timeless at Sherwood Cove
Sherwood Cove 132 Brady St. Allegan
Timeless will share country, pop, classic rock and Christian from the 1960s to today.

Sat., Feb. 14, 2026, 10-11am: Ice Fishing at Littlejohn Lake Park with ODC
Littlejohn Lake Co. Park 3528 113th Ave. Allegan
All ages can learn to fish for free. Enjoy catch and release with all materials provided. Guardians stay with the youngsters and registration is required at https://www.facebook.com/allegancountyparksrecreationandtourism

Sat., Feb. 14, 2026: Littlejohn Legacy DUBZ
Littlejohn Lake County Park 113rd Ave. Allegan
The event presented by DISCRAFT benefits the Imagination Library of Allegan County. For more information check in at alleganfoundation.org.

Sat., Feb. 14, 2026, 5:30-9pm: Valentine's Dinner
LYNX Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Otsego
Enjoy a 4-course dinner and dancing with the reservation, then add fresh roses, and caricature artist. Make reservations at https://lynxgc.com/calendar/2026/valentinesdinner.

Sat., Feb. 14, 2026, 7pm: A Toast of Live: The Perfect Pair(ing) Dinner
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
A four course Valentine's experience hosted by Tanya & Patrick. Make reservations at Tantrick Brewing.

Mon., Feb. 16, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Kids' Anime Club. All ages can drop in to trade Pokemon cards and get tips from trainers.
6pm: Craftastic: Abstract Art Night. Register at 269 673-4625 to create abstract paintings.

Tues., Feb. 17, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. Ages 0-2 can drop in to enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: Kids' Gaming Club. All ages can drop in to play a variety of board games, card games or Nintendo Wii.

Tues., Feb. 17, 2026, 2-4pm: Clean Eating Club
First Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
Monthly meeting of this group will discuss topics on clean eating and weight loss. Each meeting will provide help for mastering a way of eating.

Wed., Feb. 18, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Wed., Feb. 18, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café
1st Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
Come during lunch and listen to great music, have lunch, bring your knitting or a guitar and join the open jam session. Music calms the soul.

Wed., Feb. 18, Noon: Ash Wednesday Service
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
Celebrate the beginning of Lent with the imposition of ashes. All are welcome.

Wed., Feb. 18, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café
1st Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
Come during lunch and listen to great music, have lunch, bring your knitting or a guitar and join the open jam session. Music calms the soul.

Wed., Feb. 18, 2026, 6:30pm: Pub Quiz Night
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Gather a team of 4-6 players, bring a library card if possible, and sign up beginning at 5:30pm. Test your knowledge and have fun!

Thurs., Feb. 19, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: All About Owls. Register at 269 673-4625 to enjoy the Blandford Nature Center ambassador owls. Grades 2-7 will dissect an owl pellet.
6pm: Murder in Victorian Western MI. Register at 269 673-4625 to hear Author Michael Delaware present *Murder in Victorian Western Michigan* that intertwines Michigan history.

Thurs., Feb. 19, 2026, 507pm: Third Thirsty Thursday
Tilt 118 118 Brady St. Allegan
Monthly Happy Hour with the Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce. All are welcome.

Thurs., Feb. 19, 2026, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co, 243 Hubbard St., Allegan
Come for a night of fun playing a twist round of traditional Bingo.

Thurs., Feb. 19, 2026, 6-8pm: Euchre Night
Lynz Golf Course 500 Lincoln Rd. Otsego
Nightly buy in, includes season ending tournament pot if meeting minimum participation. Individual players wanted. Blind draw for partners

Fri., Feb. 20, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Fri., Feb. 20, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Kids' Cookies & Canvas Paint-a-Squish! Grades 3-7 can register at 269 673-4625 to learn how to paint their own squish stuffie and have a treat.
6pm: Teen Tech Night. Grades 6-12 can explore a variety of 3-D virtual equipment and play video games.

Sat., Feb. 21, 2026, 11am: Chainmail Jewelry Making Workshop
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Teens and adults can register at 269 673-4625 to learn medieval techniques and learn to make jewelry.

Sat., Feb. 21, 2026, 7pm: Left On Main Live
Tantrick Brewing Co. 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Enjoy the music, great food and wonderful beverages.

Mon., Feb. 23, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Sing Song Family Yoga & Literacy. All ages can drop in with Deb Weiss-Gelmi for yoga, music and literacy.
6pm: Bingo. All ages can drop in to play for fun and prizes.

Tues., Feb. 24, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
1pm: Friends of the Library Meeting. All are welcome to join the planning for supporting the library.
3:30pm: Discover 4H with MSU. 5-12 year olds can drop in and enjoy activities with an MSU 4H leader.

Tues., Feb. 24, 2026, 2-4pm: Sugar Addiction Study
First Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan

Public Hearing Notice

The Gun Plain Charter Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2026/2027 at 381 8th Street Plainwell, MI on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing**. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 381 8th Street Plainwell, MI.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended, MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

The Gun Plain Charter Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 7 days notice to the Gun Plain Charter Township Board.

Note: Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Gun Plain Charter Township Board by writing or calling the following: Marty Meert, 381 8th Street Plainwell, MI. 49080. (269) 685-9471.

Gun Plain Charter Township Board
P.O. Box 146
Plainwell, MI 49080

NOTICE

OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
CITY OF ALLEGAN
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CITY OF ALLEGAN, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a sample of Ordinance 534, which was adopted by the Allegan City Council at a regular meeting held February 9, 2026.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF ALLEGAN CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE III, TITLED "ESCROW ACCOUNT PROCEEDS FROM FIRE INSURANCE PAYMENTS", TO ALIGN PROCEDURES WITH THE FIRE INSURANCE WITHHOLDING PROGRAM

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the City of Allegan Ordinance 534 is available at City Hall, 231 Trowbridge St, during normal business hours, or upon request form the Allegan City Clerk.

Carol Canales,
Deputy Clerk
City of Allegan
231 Trowbridge St
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-5511

THE REGENT THEATRE
211 Trowbridge St., Allegan
www.alleganregent.com
269-673-2737

Friday, Feb. 13 - Thursday, Feb. 26
7pm Feature • $5 – Sat. & Sun. 2pm Matinee • $4
Tuesdays- 25 cent Popcorn
FLASHBACK FRIDAY!
The General (1926) Fri., Feb. 27 @ 9:30pm • $5

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Check out our Valley City Preventative Maintenance Programs

Judy Hobetler and Leah Ward will monitor a discussion of sugar addiction using helpful videos on how to wean oneself off sugar.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES
ASSISTANCE

Addiction Support Group, Thursdays 7-8pm
1900 Lincoln Road, Allegan
Come as you are.

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Thursdays & Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhope-hospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org., 269-686-6456

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090
Pantry items a pre-packaged. Limit - one box per vehicle.

Project Hope
1808 143rd Ave. Dorr
616 681-4673 appt. only

The Vine Food Pantry / Love, INC
Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave, Allegan, MI · (269) 673-2329

Wayland Farners Market
Apr. – Oct. Wed. & Sat.
Downtown Wayland

FUN FOR THE FAMILY
Bingo!, Wednesdays, 6pm: American Legion Hall
Senior Bingo!, Tuesdays from 1-3pm: American Legion Hall
Corner of Eastern Avenue and Hooker, Allegan

Allegan District Library, M-Th 10am-8pm, F 10am-5:30pm, Sat.10am-4pm:
Plus, Carnegie Corner Bookstore (Friend available on Tuesdays)
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard Street, lower level Allegan (269) 673-4625

Allegan Event – Ropes Course, Walls and More
439 River Street Allegan
Twilight Special: Thurs., 4-9pm, 2hrs. for $18
Free Game Card: Fri., 4-9pm w/ $20 food purchase
Family 4-Pack: Sat., 5-9pm, 4 premier combo tickets w/ pizza+ for $130
For more information call 269-430-3961 or check online at https://www.alleganevent.com

Allegan County Historical Society, Old Jail Museum.
Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm, (269) 673-8292. Call to confirm hours or arrange for a private tour.
Email: oldjailmuseum06@yahoo.com Webpage: www.alleganoldjail.com

Bear & Fox Yarn Den
Bear & Fox 141 Brady St. Allegan
Tues. 2-8pm; Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun.-Mon closed
Enjoy beautiful yarns and classes or Tuesday Stitch Night.

Children's Book Box – Immanuel Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church 631 Grand Street Allegan
Children can find free books in the Book Box constructed by the Sunday School Youth. Check it out.

Iron Bridge Quilters - Thursdays, 10am-2pm
Blessed Sacrament Church 110 Cedar St. Allegan
All ages and levels of expertise are welcome. Create a piece for yourself, for a friend or for a charity. Contact Claudia at acrasmussen5@gmail.com or (269) 673-4579 for more information.

Rivertown Fitness for All Ages and Families
Rivertown Gym & Fitness, 739 Airway Dr. Allegan. Check on the Core and More class. Call Todd at 269 686-7900 or email rivertowngym@gmail.com for additional information.

Scouting: Allegan has a variety of scouting opportunities. Each group is meeting in different ways to stay safe.
Cub Scout Pack 3026: Grades K-5. Call Cub Master Ron Gunter ron.f.gunter@gmail.com
Boy Scouts BSA 91 (boys 11-17 yrs.): Contact Scout Master Rob Keen 269 568-0435, eckeen1112@gmail.com
Girls Troop BSA 191 (girls 11-17): Contact Sara Keen sarajkeen@gmail.com.

Senior Fitness/Fit Over 50: Fun fitness designed for ages 50-80plus!
Hicks Gym, 311 E Plainwell Street, Plainwell. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9am. Drop in or call Sharrin at 269-330-3204 or email at denzgirllc@att.net.

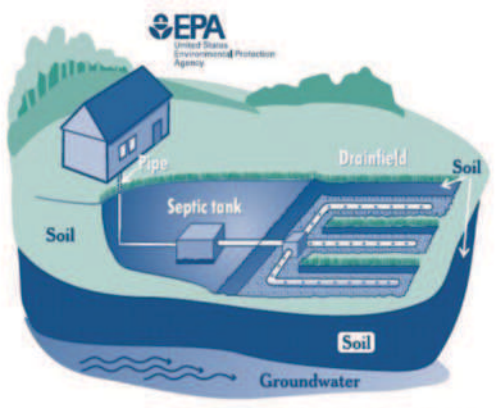
The Fairways:
237 Hubbard St. Allegan (269) 655-5890
Get assistance with accuracy, distance, course management, club selection, or distance control. Work on a simulator, and treat it like a practice session at the course to achieve overall game improvement.

RIVER CRUISE VACATIONS
Experience the beauty and history of the St. Lawrence & Ottawa Rivers on a classic Canadian riverboat. *Request our free travel brochure.*
1-800-267-7868 www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com

PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER: MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

WHAT IS A SEPTIC SYSTEM?

Water from your bathroom, kitchen and washing machine all go into a septic tank where solids settle out. The majority of the solids are digested by bacteria and the remaining fluid flows into a drainfield where it slowly filters through the soil. Organisms in the soil consume the remaining waste.



Graphic: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ENSURE YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM IS FUNCTIONING PROPERLY

✔ HAVE YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTED & PUMPED EVERY 3 TO 5 YEARS
- Hire a septic tank service contractor that is required to have a state permit to handle and dispose of sewage
- Businesses are listed in the telephone directory or call the local County Health Department

✔ USE LESS WATER
- Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your hands and dishes, shaving, etc.
- Spread your laundry washing out over the week to avoid putting a lot of water into the drainfield

✔ AVOID USING CHEMICALS & ADDITIVES
- Chemicals such as drain cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners and "miracle system cleaners" will kill the b down sludge in your septic system
- Always check the product label to make sure it is safe to use in a septic system
- Alternative drain cleaner: ½ cup of baking soda, followed by ½ cup of vinegar, poured down the drain, let sit for a couple minutes and follow with boiling water

✔ DISPOSE ONLY CERTAIN ITEMS IN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM
- Only dispose toilet wastes and water used for bathing, cooking, laundry and dishwashing into the septic system
- Cloggers: Diapers, cat litter, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, grease, feminine hygiene products, etc.
- Killers: Household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, etc.

✔ KEEP VEHICLES, LIVESTOCK & BUILDINGS OFF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM
- Keep vehicles away from the drainfield and septic tank and never build or pave over the drainfield
- Driving or building over the drainfield can impact the soil and break pipes. Soil compaction and paving prevents oxygen from getting into the soil. This oxygen is needed by bacteria to break down and treat sewage.

✔ PLANT ONLY GRASS OVER AND NEAR YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM
- Roots from nearby trees and shrubs might clog and damage the system
- Do not apply fertilizers or manure over the drainfield

✔ LOCATE YOUR SEPTIC TANK & DRAINFIELD AND KEEP A RECORD OF INSPECTION AND PUMPAGE

Allegan Source Water Protectionhttps://www.cityofallegan.org/departments/drinking_water.php

• Additions
• Remodeling
• Garages
• Decks
• Pole Barns
• Roofing/Siding
• Ceramic Tile
• Heating/Air Conditioning
• Window Replacement
• Excavating
• Demolition
• Concrete Foundations
• Concrete Floors
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Why the U.S. Needs Voter ID

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Few issues in American politics spark as much debate as election integrity. Yet beneath all the noise, there lies a straightforward truth: in a system built on trust, legitimacy, and the belief that every eligible vote counts, we should embrace basic safeguards that protect the process. Among the simplest and most common-sense of these safeguards is Voter ID.

At its core, Voter ID is not a radical concept. It's a reflection of how we handle countless other important transactions in daily life. We show identification to board a plane, pick up a prescription, cash a check, enter a government building, or even buy certain over-the-counter items. These interactions pale in significance compared to the act of choosing our leaders. If we require an ID to rent a movie car, how unreasonable is it to require one to cast a vote.

Critics often argue that Voter ID laws suppress turnout, particularly among disadvantaged groups. But this claim doesn't hold up against real-world experience. Many states with Voter ID laws have seen no drop in participation, some have even seen increases. Studies are mixed, yes, but the principle remains: ensuring integrity should not be dismissed simply because implementation requires thoughtful policy. Instead of abandoning the idea, we should focus on making IDs accessible and free, ensuring that no eligible voter is left behind. The solution to barriers is not eliminating security, it's eliminating the barriers.

Voter confidence is another crucial factor. In an era where election distrust has become a bipartisan problem, restoring faith in the system is essential. Even if instances of in-person voter fraud are statistically rare, public confidence is not measured in statistics—it's measured in perception. When nearly half the country doubts the fairness of elections, implementing reasonable, broadly supported measures can help rebuild trust. Voter ID is one of the least intrusive, most widely understood steps we can take.

Moreover, Voter ID requirements help maintain clean voter rolls by complementing other election-management practices. They make impersonation and double-voting more difficult, help confirm residency, and ensure that ballots reflect the choices of actual, eligible citizens. Even if fraud is infrequent, the consequences of just one illegitimate vote are real: it cancels out a legitimate one. Upholding the value of every citizen's ballot requires us to protect the system from vulnerabilities that are easy to fix.

There's also a fairness element. Many Americans already believe—rightly or wrongly—that other people are gaming the system. When some states require no verification at the polls while others do, it creates inconsistency that fuels suspicion. National elections should have baseline national standards. Uniform voter identification rules, paired with accessible, government-issued IDs, level the playing field and ensure every vote across every state is subject to the same standard of scrutiny.

Finally, implementing Voter ID is not an act of exclusion; it can be an act of empowerment. Ensuring every adult citizen has a valid ID has benefits well beyond voting—access to employment, housing, banking, and safety net programs. A nationwide initiative to guarantee free, easy-to-obtain identification could strengthen both our democracy and our social infrastructure.

The right to vote is sacred. And like all sacred things, it deserves protection. Voter ID is not a cure-all, nor should it be the only measure we consider. But it is a simple, reasonable step that brings the United States in line with the majority of democracies around the world. If we want elections that are above suspicion, trusted by all, and reflective of the will of the people, then implementing Voter ID—fairly, universally, and accessibly—is not only prudent. It's necessary.

Congress needs to act. Voter ID requirements ought to be the law of the land. Arguments against it are weak. Over 70 percent of minorities favor voter ID. It only makes sense.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Birthdays and anniversaries are big deals because they are how we honor someone or something by making them special. They take careful, creative planning and work.

Our nation's 250th birthday is less than six months away. I think it's a big deal and when it comes to planning we're burning daylight. That's a polite invitation to get moving and figure out what we'll do.

When Canada was preparing to celebrate a century of independence in 1969, they got a jump on it with the world's fair "Expo 68" in Montreal. If you attended it, you might remember the wacky-looking condominium complex called Habitat.

For Expo, Canadians introduced the monorail. Every nation and major corporation wanted to be part of it, and many had their own pavilions or exhibitions.

Visitors left realizing there's more to Canada than hockey, poutine, really good beer, beavers, logrolling contests, and tacking "eh" onto every sentence.

The federal government encouraged local municipalities to come up with a permanent memorial as a symbol of how much the country's independence meant to them.

For example, Vegreville, Alberta, originally settled by immigrants from Ukraine, commissioned the world's largest aluminum Easter egg to showcase their heritage and contributions to Canada. The egg is still on display. It is 31 feet long, three stories tall, weighs about two and a half tons, and is decorated in their traditional style. It was and remains a big deal.

In a St. Paul, Alberta city park, residents commemorated the centenary of their nation and their current fascination with UFOs, building the first and probably only UFO landing pad. Silly? Maybe. The point is they came up with an idea, the community worked together and it puts a smile on faces.

Fifty years ago, when I lived in Sargeant, Minn., population 92, we decided to hold a big parade with marching bands, a bagpipe band, old "Brassies" automobiles, several Garfield-Scott and Rumley Oil-Burner steam tractors, plus a large contingent of tractors, trucks, muscle cars and more.

Members of the DAR and SAR turned out in costume, Civil War re-enactors were there, and the last surviving World War I Doughboy, still farming a few miles out of town, participated.

We scored a real coup when we convinced that year's Mower County Pork Queen to ride on a float as the grand marshal. She had plenty of parades to choose from that day and chose ours. In our small town, that was a big deal.

The whole thing got out of hand because the parade lineup was more than a mile long. We decided to have the volunteer fire department lead the parade. Our rationale was that the 1936 White Motors firetruck was not very reliable, and volunteers promised to push it if needed.

The truck from Oslo Corners Gas and Grocery brought up the rear because the owner was handing out quarter-pound bags of lutefisk instead of candy. We joked the real reason was to keep the aroma downwind.

We also decided to ban politicians. We were celebrating America's birthday, not their next campaign. Besides, we already had the county pork queen.

We had fun doing it because we were celebrating something important: our nation's heritage. So did other communities that used the date to spiff up public parks and finish municipal projects. Neighbors got into the sheer joy by having block parties.

A few mainline Protestant churches somehow convinced their clerics to dress in traditional garb and ride on horseback to the church door.

Not all plans worked out. Rock Dell, not far from Sargeant, with a smaller population but a Velveeta Cheese factory, scheduled a fete that included a cheese eating contest. It went poorly.

Right now, I'm not feeling much joy or enthusiasm about a 250th birthday bash for America. Maybe the sense of creating our own fun hasn't kicked in yet.

Part of this may be the political scene in our country. It doesn't matter which party you prefer, we are divided. It has grown vicious over the past decade.

Still, when we look at our history, it has always been that way. We have put Washington on a very high pedestal, overlooking the fact that his Cabinet was often at odds with him and glad to see him retire to Mount Vernon.

Adams and Jefferson hated each other, and even though they co-authored the Declaration of Independence, did not speak to each other for decades. That is the way it has been since the kickoff, but it's no reason to not have fun.

When America celebrated its centennial, the lingering division between North and South continued regarding Reconstruction. Just like today, there was tremendous animosity toward immigrants and Native Americans.

President Hayes was a compromise, and most people liked him because he promised he would only serve one term. They did not think highly of First Lady "Lemonade" Lucy Hayes because she was a teetotaler who would not serve alcohol at state dinners, regardless of international protocol.

When we celebrated our bicentennial, the country was still badly divided, this time over the political fallout from the Nixon years, high inflation and gasoline prices, and more. People even mocked new President Ford's golf or ability to climb up and down the steps to Air Force One.

Another part of it this time around is the economy. Many individuals, groups and municipalities do not have the financial resources for a community celebration.

Making matters still worse is the greatly increasing cost of security. We did not worry so much about that in the past, but neither did we have mass shootings and drivers who turned vehicles into deadly weapons.

Nor did we have to take into account federal agencies that demand to see identification papers and detain people who do not jump-to when they order them around, often using invectives at the top of their lungs.

In short, we have always faced challenges and difficult times. What we are experiencing today is nothing new. There is a simple solution to that: turn it off. Stop following the odiferous news for as long as it takes to detox your system.

Let's go to work on creating a good party. When America celebrated its centennial, Philadelphia hosted a World's Fair. In the midst of the Great Depression, Chicago hosted one in 1933. Six years later, when war was already waging in Europe and Asia, it was New York City's turn to do it.

We did it before, and we can do it again, knowing there are solid reasons to celebrate America's greatness.

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

As a reminder to the absolutely clueless or forgetful, Valentine's Day is Saturday the 14th. Therein is the topic for this week: Your thoughts about Valentine's Day:

-Man near the Fennville hardware store: "Oh, pretty much we do every year. We go out for dinner somewhere. My wife will pick the place."

-Woman near the Fennville grocery store: "Not much, this year, anyway. I'm on my own. My husband died last summer, so…."

-Young woman near the Allegan Public Library: "I don't know. My boyfriend isn't very good at that sort of thing. I wish he was. You know, something nice and romantic to make it a special day."

-Friend with her: "Valentine's Day isn't that big a deal anymore. Maybe it was for our parents and grandparents, you know, cards and flowers, but that's old-fashioned."

-First woman: "You can say that, but I disagree. If you're a couple, it should be something special, a treat."

-Young man near A-Tech: "Well, I'm not certain. I'm seeing a nice gal, but the cost of flowers and chocolates and a dinner out…I'm not rich. I hope she doesn't get her hopes up too high. I don't want to disappoint her."

-Middle aged woman near the Huntington Bank: "I keep thinking back to when we were in elementary school. Everyone gave everyone else a Valentine card, and a couple of the mothers made cupcakes for our class, with pink icing. It was nice."

-Woman near Allegan City Hall: "Our father had been killed in a car wreck when we were really young, so Mom was a widow the whole time we were growing up. She said her job was looking after us, not looking for a new man. But she always made Valentine's Day a bit special for us, I think to remind us love was important. So anyway, I graduated from high school in the spring, and by Thanksgiving she was engaged to a really nice man; a great guy, and he and her stayed in love for years until she died of cancer. He took care of her right up to the end."

-Young woman near the Allegan Post Office: "Well, my boyfriend and I are making a full weekend of it, and that's all I'm saying."

-Man near Minnie's: "Not much. Hang out with the guys, I guess, and go to the bar. I'm single again, and I'm in no rush to get tied down again."

-Young man near the florist shop: "I just ordered flowers and I'm getting some chocolate. But it's not what you think. Dad died around the beginning of November so I'm taking Mother out on a date."

-Older man near the optometry shop: "Ah, we've been married so long we don't really need to do much anymore."

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Your voice matters in mapping Allegan County's food landscape

Dear Editor:

Allegan County's food system is larger and more complex than any one store, farm, or organization. It includes grocery stores and convenience stores, restaurants and farm stands, food pantries, seed libraries, and the many informal ways people access food every day.

With support from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, an ECFA grant through Michigan State University, and a recent grant from Meijer, the Allegan Food Alliance is undertaking a deep, countywide effort to better understand this full food landscape. We are mapping food resources of all kinds and pairing that data with community voices to understand what food access really looks like across Allegan County.

A primary goal of this work is to build a cross-sector food system task force made up of people from across the county — farmers, health care workers, food pantry managers and volunteers, grocers, restaurant owners and workers, parents and caregivers, seniors, youth, and everyday eaters. This group will help interpret what we're learning and shape future planning, partnerships, and solutions.

Data alone can't tell the whole story. We need to hear from you — from the people who live, work, shop, cook, and eat here.

That's why we are asking residents to complete a short, confidential food survey. Whether you rely on a nearby convenience store, drive out of your way for groceries, shop at local farms, eat out regularly, run a restaurant or food pantry, your experience matters.

As a thank-you for your time, survey participants may choose to enter a drawing for one of three $50 Meijer gift cards.

This survey is not about judging choices or businesses. It is about listening — and ensuring that publicly supported work reflects real lived experience across Allegan County.

If you live, work, or shop for food in Allegan County, please take a few minutes to share your voice.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AFA-CTTT2025

Publicly funded work should be grounded in public input. Thank you for helping shape the future of Allegan County's food system.

Mary A. Colborn
Allegan Food Alliance

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Obituaries

Constance (LaHuis) Shively

Constance (LaHuis) Shively, age 94, entered the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ January 2, 2026. Connie was born April 2, 1931 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to John and Eva (Fairbanks) LaHuis. Connie was the oldest of 12 children in a full and active home. She married Roy Shively in January 1951 and shared over 60 years of marriage with him prior to his passing. She was a devoted caregiver to him during his prolonged illness. She was a devoted and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She loved to spend time with family and friends, cook and ride bicycles. Connie was also an accomplished musician, playing the organ for 50 years at the First Baptist Church in Plainwell.

Connie was preceded in death by her husband Roy; her parents John and Eva LaHuis; daughter Darlene Kohn; brothers Jim, Philip, Tim, David and Daniel; sisters Grace Stenberg, Martha Briggs and Esther Kadar. She is loving remembered by children Leroy (Darlene) Shively and Charlene (Jon) Plotner; brothers Paul (Ruth), John (Pam); sister Bernice (Don) Bolis; son-in-law Tom Kohn; sister-in-law Jackie LaHuis; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The family thanks the staff from Edison Christian Living Services and Faith Hospice for their wonderful and loving care provided to Connie. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial contribution to Edison Christian Life Services or Faith Hospice. A memorial gathering will be held on Friday March 27, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm with a service following at 2:00 pm at the Avink, McGowen & Secord Funeral Home in Plainwell.

Constance (LaHuis) Shively

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Robert A. Johnson Jr.

Robert A. Johnson Jr. passed away at the age of 86 on January 27, 2026. He was born on August 4, 1939.

He is survived by his wife of twenty-two years, Liz Johnson of Hendersonville, NC; son, Mike Johnson of Washington DC; daughters, Debbie (Chris) Clancy of Ludington, MI, and Sarah French (Mike Walters) of Kalamazoo, MI; grandchildren Tori Clancy, Molly French, and Erin Clancy; great-grandchild, Robbie Bammert. Bob is proceeded in death by father, Robert A. Johnson Sr.; mother, Helen Johnson; and wife, Martha Johnson.

Bob graduated from Otsego High School in 1957, and Western Michigan University in 1961. He began his career as a high school history teacher in North Muskegon, MI, where he was a favorite among the students and staff. After a few short years of teaching, he was eager to move into the corporate world. He worked in Human Resources at American Motors, JI Case, Clark Equipment, and finally Volvo Construction, where he ended his career as the head of the Human Resource Department at the Volvo North American Headquarters in Asheville, NC. Bob was well-liked in the workplace, as he believed that the happier his employees were, the more productive they would be.

In high school, Bob played the drums and guitar, was a proud member of the Skunk Patrol with his close friends and was voted Best Dressed—an early sign of the personality, style, and confidence that stayed with him throughout his life.

Known for his thoughtful planning, Bob believed that the best memories were made intentionally—especially during his beloved two-week summer vacations when his children were younger, which he planned with care and enthusiasm year after year with his wife Sue. Later in life, Bob's children were the ones to plan yearly special vacations, taking Bob to upper Michigan several times, and for the past few years, Highlands, NC. The time spent together with his kids was the most precious gift to Bob.

Bob had a playful and thoughtful side that showed up in family traditions. Valentine's Day vacations were a favorite surprise, revealed through cleverly written cards filled with clues about where they were going and what to pack. He delighted in creating anticipation and wonder. He also loved taking his kids to Dean's Ice Cream for surprise floats, turning a simple treat into a guessing game as they tried to guess the flavors he chose.

Family was at the center of Bob's life. He rarely missed a birthday for his grandchildren, happily traveling to Michigan whenever there was something important to celebrate. His home—and especially his pool—was a gathering place full of laughter, where the grandkids loved to play when they would visit, and everyone felt welcome.

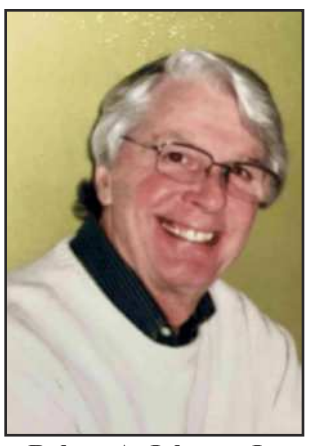
Every day at precisely 3 o'clock, Bob could be found enjoying his orange cappuccino, a small ritual that brought him comfort and consistency. For years, Bob did the Sunday puzzle in the paper, and he also enjoyed his weekly breakfasts with his friend, Fred. He was a devoted fan of Michigan football, the Detroit Lions, and especially the Detroit Tigers, following his teams with loyalty and hope that never wavered.

Evenings were often spent around the table playing I'll Buy It, a card game enjoyed by everyone, but especially his wife, Liz, and his sister-in-law, Gayle. Those games were filled with laughter, friendly competition, and togetherness.

As he grew older, Bob developed a fondness for antiquing and classic movies, appreciating the stories and craftsmanship of the past. Though he never had pets for much of his life, he eventually found himself completely charmed by his cats, who became unexpected companions he truly loved.

Bob will be remembered for his thoughtfulness, his traditions, his sense of fun, and the deep love he had for his family. His legacy lives on in shared stories, family games, surprise trips, and the countless moments he made special simply by being himself.

A Memorial Service celebrating Bob's life will be held at a later date in Otsego, MI.



Robert A. Johnson Jr.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

The History and Traditions Behind Valentine's Day

Each year on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day is celebrated with cards, flowers, chocolates, and expressions of affection, but the holiday's origins stretch far beyond its modern, commercial image.

The roots of Valentine's Day are commonly linked to one or more early Christian martyrs named Valentine. According to legend, St. Valentine was a Roman priest who lived during the third century and was executed for performing secret marriages at a time when such unions were forbidden. While historians note that many details of the story remain uncertain, Valentine became associated with love, devotion, and sacrifice, themes that continue to shape the holiday today.

Valentine's Day also shares connections with ancient Roman traditions. One frequently cited influence is Lupercalia, a pagan festival held in mid-February that celebrated fertility and the coming of spring. As Christianity spread, church leaders gradually replaced these festivals with religious observances, and Feb. 14 became associated with honoring St. Valentine.

The romantic nature of Valentine's Day became more firmly established during the Middle Ages. In England and France, it was believed that birds began pairing off in mid-February, reinforcing the idea that the date was tied to romance. Writers such as Geoffrey Chaucer referenced the day in poems linking it to courtly love, helping to popularize the association.

By the 18th century, exchanging handwritten notes and small tokens had become a common way to mark the occasion. Early valentines were often decorated with lace, ribbons, and romantic verses. The introduction of mass-produced greeting cards in the 19th century made the tradition more accessible, allowing people to share messages of affection more easily.

Modern Valentine's Day customs vary widely but often include giving flowers, particularly roses, which have long symbolized love and beauty. Chocolates, jewelry, and shared meals have also become popular expressions of affection. In recent years, the holiday has expanded beyond romantic partners, with many people celebrating friendships, family relationships, and self-care.

Though Valentine's Day has evolved over centuries, its central theme remains unchanged. At its core, the holiday continues to celebrate connection, kindness, and the simple act of expressing appreciation for those who matter most.

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Third grade students at Alamo Elementary show off the brochures they created about the state of Michigan. (Photo provided)

Students read their Michigan brochures to each other after completing the project at Alamo Elementary. (Photo provided)

Alamo third graders turn Michigan history into fun project

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Third graders at Alamo Elementary aren't just learning about Michigan history—they're learning how to *sell* it.

As part of an annual project, students create Michigan-themed brochures highlighting what makes the Great Lakes State unique, combining geography, history and creativity into a hands-on learning experience.

"The entire first trimester, students spend time in class learning about Michigan," said Alamo third-grade teacher Natalie Trumley. "Our social studies and geography unit is completely focused on our state."

That learning begins with the basics—where Michigan fits in the world — before zooming in closer to home.

"Students love using Google Earth to find Michigan on our planet, continent, country and state," Trumley said. "We even zoom in to see different cities, where students live, and of course, Alamo Elementary."

From there, students explore Michigan's location using cardinal directions, study state symbols, and learn about natural and human characteristics — including the Great Lakes — using a free, teacher-created online textbook and a variety of digital resources.

When it comes time to introduce the brochure project, Trumley frames it in a way that instantly grabs students' attention.

"I tell students they are being hired by the governor to talk people into visiting Michigan," she said. "I emphasize that they need to choose places or things that are unique to Michigan — not something people could see or do anywhere."

Students are given guidelines tied directly to the unit's learning targets, but how they bring those ideas to life is largely up to them.

"Students have full choice," Trumley said. "As long as they can give facts about the place or characteristic, they may choose anything."

That freedom has led to a wide variety of final products, ranging from fully digital brochures to hand-drawn and scrapbook-style creations.

"I've seen everything from digital brochures to hand-written copies with hand-drawn pictures," Trumley said. "And that's the best part—seeing how differently they all turn out."

Beyond geography and research skills, Trumley hopes the project leaves a lasting impression on students in other ways as well.

"I love that this focuses on our home state and helps instill a sense of pride and belonging," she said. "It also replaces a traditional paper-and-pencil test and shows students that learning *is* fun."

Because students are asked to persuade others to visit Michigan, Trumley said the project also reinforces the importance of student voice.

"They see that their opinions matter," she said. "They have ideas worth sharing."

This year's projects have been especially memorable, Trumley added.

"One of the best parts is when students ask, 'Do we have social studies today? Can we work on our brochures?'" she said. "I even got a few boos when we had to miss a work day."

One student told classmates that his cousin had said the brochure project would be the best part of third grade — a claim he later confirmed himself.

"After the unit was over, he said, 'Now I see why my cousin told me this was so great,'" Trumley said.

Another student was so inspired that he began working on a brochure about the entire United States on his own.

For Trumley, the project also carried a personal highlight this year.

"I had my son in class, so I got to see the excitement at school and at home," she said. "I thought I'd have to help him type some of it, but he was so motivated that he typed every word himself."

At the end of the project, students from both third-grade classes came together to share their brochures, each one telling a different story about Michigan—and showcasing just how much they learned along the way.

During the Michigan brochure project, third grade students at Alamo Elementary learned many facts about the state. (Photo provided)

Plainwell Education Foundation invites staff to apply for winter

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Plainwell Education Foundation is now accepting applications for its Winter Cycle of Mini Grants, offering a chance for Plainwell Community School staff to secure funds for classroom projects, new ideas, and educational supplies.

The foundation invites all Plainwell Community Schools employees to apply for a mini grant to support innovative new projects or needed classroom materials. Applications are due no later than Sunday, Feb. 15.

The overarching mission of the foundation is to enhance excellence in education within the Plainwell schools by providing financial resources that go beyond what school budgets cover, helping educators bring fresh ideas and hands-on learning opportunities into classrooms.

Since its inception more than three decades ago, the foundation has awarded thousands of dollars in grants and scholarships, supporting teacher-led initiatives and student opportunities throughout the district.

In past years, mini grants have funded projects that expand learning resources, support student wellness, and encourage creative instructional experiences.

In addition to mini grants, the foundation also supports graduating seniors through scholarship awards funded by community donations and fundraising efforts.

Teachers and staff can learn more about the application process and requirements by visiting the Plainwell Education Foundation website or contacting foundation representatives directly.

Mini grants are intended to empower educators to bring new ideas to life and enhance the educational experience for students across the district.

Water ■ *from Page A1*

These increases would stabilize the Water Fund and provide the revenue needed to continue delivering quality service.

Every household's water usage is different, but the City typically illustrates cost impacts using a "typical" home that uses 13,500 gallons per quarter.

Under that model, the water portion of the bill would increase by just over $50 per quarter. Including the nominal sewer increase of approximately $9 per quarter, the total increase would be about $60 per quarter, or $20 per month.

Customers who use more than 13,500 gallons per quarter would see proportionally higher increases.

What are the next steps, and when can I get more information?

Residents will have at least three additional opportunities to learn more and ask questions at upcoming City Commission meetings, all held at City Hall at 7 p.m.

* **February 16** – Bendzinski & Co. will request formal approval of its analysis. Data and rate options will be discussed.

* **March 2** – The City Commission will discuss and decide on water rate increases effective July 1.

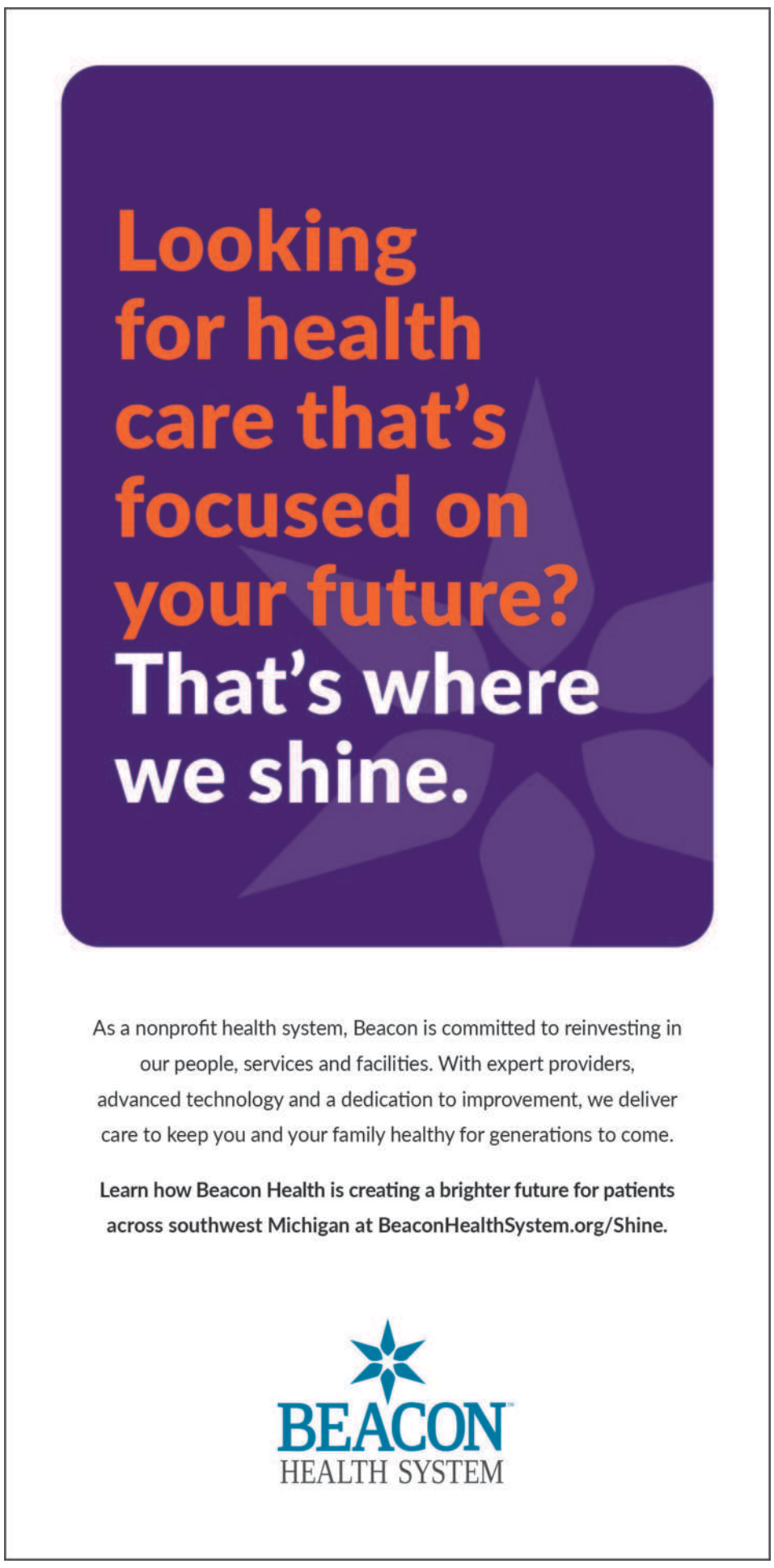
* **April 20** – Water and Sewer Funds will be reviewed as part of the 2026–27 budget presentation, incorporating the approved rates.

Please understand that these decisions are not made lightly.

The City Commission and City Administration recognize the strain these increases place on household budgets that are already tight.

Our goal is to be as transparent as possible so residents can prepare rather than be surprised.

Thank you for your understanding.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Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026

Saugatuck runs past Fennville in Never Forgotten Game

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—The scoreboard told one story Saturday afternoon, but the meaning of the moment extended well beyond the final horn.

Led by a dominant all-around performance from Talia Laskowski, Saugatuck High School cruised past Fennville High School 67-28 in the girls basketball portion of the annual Never Forgotten Game, played in memory of Wes Leonard.

Laskowski finished with 22 points, 13 rebounds, seven steals and six assists, controlling the game on both ends as the Trailblazers set the tone early and never allowed Fennville to find a rhythm.

Saugatuck wasted little time asserting itself, jumping out to a 23-4 lead after the first quarter behind aggressive defense and balanced scoring. The Trailblazers continued to build on that advantage in the second quarter, taking a 41-14 lead into halftime, and cruised the rest of the way.

The win improved Saugatuck to 13-1 on the season. The Trailblazers entered the game ranked 10th in Division 3, and Saturday's performance reflected the form of a team playing with confidence on both ends of the floor.

Mylah Simpson added 16 points, while Penelope Grob scored 14, knocking down four 3-pointers as Saugatuck continued to stretch the lead with its depth and perimeter shooting.

Senior Ada Roth also made her presence felt early, scoring six points in the opening quarter, including four of Saugatuck's first eight points. It marked Roth's first opportunity to take part in the Never Forgotten Game after missing much of the past two seasons while recovering from knee injuries.

The Never Forgotten Game is played each year in honor of Leonard, the Fennville standout who collapsed and died from sudden cardiac arrest after hitting a game-winning shot to cap a perfect regular season.

His legacy lives on through the Wes Leonard Heart Team, which raises awareness for heart health and has donated hundreds of automated external defibrillators to schools and athletic programs across Michigan.

Saugatuck coach Kevin Tringali, who coached Leonard during his AAU career, said the significance of the game continues to resonate with both communities.

"There is a lot of history here," Tringali said. "It is a rivalry that has been around as long as any in the state. Then you tack on the fact that it is extra special playing for Wes' memory — it's been beyond special."

Tringali said he has made it a priority to ensure his players understand Leonard's story and why the game carries such meaning.

"As a younger coach, I had a great relationship with Wes," Tringali said. "I'm always going to do my part to make sure my players know what a special young man he was and the significance of this game."

Fennville was led by Amiyah Johnson with 10 points, while Ceeley Howard added seven for the Blackhawks.

Saugatuck continued its winning ways on Monday, Feb. 9, with a 63-37 victory over North Muskegon.

The Trailblazers were red hot from long range, hitting 10 triples in the first half to build a 47-19 lead.

Laskowski finished with 22 points (five 3-pointers), Simpson had 19 (two 3s) and Grob added 11 (three 3s).

Saugatuck also bested Galesburg 51-17 on Friday, Feb. 6, and beat Comstock Park 65-48 on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Against Galesburg, Laskowski and Simpson went for 19 and 14 points, respectively.

Simpson scored 21 points against Comstock Park, with Laskowski going for 13 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists and seven steals.

Saugatuck's Talia Laskowski drives to the basket in the win over Fennville. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Fennville, meanwhile, bounced back from the loss to Saugatuck with a 41-35 overtime win against Black River on Monday, Feb. 9.

Howard had 15 points, with Johnson close behind with 14. Veda Steward and Adriana Hicks snagged 11 and nine rebounds, respectively.

Howard scored 18 points against South Haven on Friday, Feb. 6, but it wasn't enough as the Rams won 56-32.

Johnson added nine points and five steals.

Kempker leads Blackhawks to win over Trailblazers

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—On a night rooted in remembrance, Gavin Kempker delivered a performance to remember.

The senior guard poured in a career-high 34 points, knocking down seven 3-pointers, to lead Fennville High School to a 66-39 victory over rival Saugatuck High School in the boys basketball portion of the annual Never Forgotten Game, played in memory of Wes Leonard.

"I don't even know how many points I had," Kempker said afterward. "Maybe 30? I've been struggling with confidence this whole season, but today I shot with confidence—and I kept shooting."

He did just that. Kempker eclipsed his previous career high of 26 points as the Blackhawks broke open a competitive game with a strong second half.

Fennville led 15-11 after one quarter and 25-19 at halftime before pulling away in the third, outscoring Saugatuck 20-9 to create separation. The Blackhawks went on to cruise the rest of the way, snapping a three-game losing streak and improving to 9-7 on the season.

Ely Schut added 10 points for Fennville (9-7), while Jessie Bernard scored 10 and Gavin Beltran chipped in nine, all from beyond the arc.

The game carried added significance, as it is played each year in honor of Leonard, the former Fennville standout who collapsed and died from sudden cardiac arrest after hitting a game-winning shot to cap a perfect regular season. His legacy lives on through the Wes Leonard Heart Team, which raises awareness and provides automated external defibrillators to schools and athletic programs throughout the state.

"This is a really big thing," Kempker said. "Wes Leonard has always been a big part of Fennville. It's good to remember him every year with this game."

Fennville pulled away in the second half to beat Saugatuck in the Never Forgotten Game. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

For Saugatuck coach Ty Rock, the game holds personal meaning. Rock was a friend of Leonard, played against him during their high school careers, and later coached at Fennville from 2019-22 before taking over the Trailblazers program.

"This game is special for me," Rock said. "Having been a friend of Wes, playing against him, and coaching at Fennville—the awareness this brings is a special thing. It holds a special place in my heart, and I'm thankful to be a part of it each year."

Rock said he was pleased with his team's effort despite the final score.

"We had a game plan to limit layups and keep them out of the paint," Rock said. "They hit 11 threes—hats off to them. Losing Sammy early hurt us, and in the end we ran out of gas. But I thought we competed and held our own."

Sam Bos led Saugatuck (1-14) with 15 points, while Jaxson Zawila added seven.

As with every installment of the Never Forgotten Game, the night served as both a rivalry contest and a reminder—of Leonard's impact, of the closeness of the two communities, and of the importance of awareness and preparation in high school athletics.

Allegan edges past Martin in SAC

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

When the dust settled at the SAC Conference wrestling championships, the team title came down to a battle between two Allegan County programs: Allegan and Martin.

And it was the Tigers who prevailed, edging past the Clippers by a margin of 200-165.5 to claim the crown.

Fennville also competed at the meet, finishing 11th with 32.5 points.

While Allegan claimed the team crown, Martin produced more individual champions, winning four weight classes compared to two for Allegan—a reflection of just how tight the race was throughout the day.

Much of the spotlight belonged to the Buell brothers of Martin.

Senior Haylen Buell, a defending state champion, continued his dominant season at 165 pounds, improving to 42-0 with an 18-3 technical fall over Allegan's Ryan Sparks in the third period.

His younger brother, freshman Zaiden Buell, made his own statement at 120, earning a 9-3 decision over Greysin Hopp of Constantine to claim his first conference title.

Martin's championship run continued at 126 and 132.

At 126, Adler Hofer secured a 17-2 technical fall over Garrett Randall of Schoolcraft in the third period. At 132, Urijah Joostberns needed just one period to pin Alec Sinkler of Delton Kellogg.

"I thought our kids competed very well," Martin coach Logan Curry said. "We had a few starters out, so we needed some other guys to step up and find ways to get wins, and they did that.

"Winning three weight classes in a row with Zaiden Buell at 120, Adler Hofer at 126, and Urijah Joostberns at 132 really ignited a strong final round for us."

Allegan's champions came at 150 pounds, where Treydan Vanderkooi claimed the title, and at 175 pounds, where Rysten Williams finished on top. VanderKooi rolled to a 21-5 technical fall over Griffyn Harmon of Delton Kellogg in the second period, while Williams capped his run by pinning Darian Jacobs of Schoolcraft in the second period.

Beyond the champions, several other county wrestlers reached the podium:

Second-place finishers: 113: Jacinto Lopez (Martin); 165: Ryan Sparks (Allegan); 285: Peyton Schuring-Harris (Martin).

Third-place finishers: 106: Cullen VanderKooi (Allegan); 120: Sullivan Morgan (Allegan); 126: Jacob Collier (Allegan); 157: Caden Krusinga (Allegan); 175: Anderson Keeler (Martin); 215: Dylan Ritsema (Allegan).

Fourth-place finishers: 106: Carter Staton (Martin); 113: Cooper Prentice (Allegan); 132: Jayden Bischoff (Allegan); 215: Nolan Menear (Fennville).

In the end, the numbers told the story of a championship that could have swung either way.

Allegan's balance and depth proved just enough to secure the SAC title, while Martin's individual excellence—highlighted by the Buell brothers—kept the pressure on until the final bout.

"Overall, I was proud of the effort, toughness and how this group responded when we needed them," Curry said of Martin. "We are excited to turn the page for the postseason."

Members and coaches from the Allegan boys wrestling team show off the plaque they received after winning the SAC Conference Championship. (Photo provided)

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ATHLETE of the WEEK

Austin Gyorkos	Lane Blanchard
Plainwell	Otsego
Boys Wrestling	Boys Wrestling

The Wolverine Conference Wrestling Championship took place on Saturday, Feb. 7, in Plainwell.

And a pair of local wrestlers achieved an impressive feat: winning a fourth league title.

Otsego senior Lane Blanchard took the crown at 157 pounds, while Plainwell senior Austin Gyorkos won at 144 pounds to wrap up the conference portion of their careers in style.

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Tigers avenge loss to Coloma

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Allegan girls basketball team showed both growth and resilience last week, responding with a road victory at Coloma after falling to a talented Kalamazoo Hackett squad.

Allegan traveled to Coloma on Friday, Feb. 6, looking to avenge an earlier-season loss to the Comets. The Tigers did just that with a 36-27 win.

Allegan controlled the game from the opening tip, leading 21-12 at halftime and never relinquishing the advantage.

Defense set the tone early, as Allegan opened the game on a 16-4 run in the first quarter and kept Coloma off balance throughout.

"The key point of the game was the first quarter," Allegan coach Ernie Ramirez said. "Our team defense was suffocating, and once we got that lead, the girls never looked back."

Jayden Vandenakker turned in a standout performance, posting a career-high 18 points, along with 13 rebounds and three blocks. She also drew the assignment of guarding Coloma's leading scorer and held her to just six points.

The Allegan girls basketball team dropped this game to Hackett, but regrouped to post a road win over Coloma three days later. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Allegan also got a boost from Emma Hileski, who was brought up to the varsity level due to a short roster and made the most of the opportunity by scoring her first varsity points.

Earlier in the week, Allegan hosted Kalamazoo Hackett on Tuesday, Feb. 3, facing a taller and more experienced team that jumped out to a 32-6 halftime lead behind strong inside play and perimeter shooting.

Despite the early deficit, the Tigers continued to compete in the second half, playing nearly even basketball over the final two quarters before falling 44-16.

"I am so proud of this team for showing me a side of competitiveness even when the score would make most teams fold," Ramirez said. "They kept battling."

Bulldogs upend top-ranked team

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

NILES—The Otsego girls basketball team put an exclamation point on a strong week, posting a 55-44 road win over Niles Brandywine on Saturday, Feb. 7.

Brandywine entered the game ranked No. 1 in Division 3 and riding a 45-game winning streak in the regular season.

After a slow start, the Lady Bulldogs settled in and trailed by just one point after the first quarter before taking a seven-point lead into halftime. Otsego pushed the margin to as many as 18 points in the second half before Brandywine trimmed the deficit to seven with just over a minute remaining.

Otsego closed it out from there, handing Brandywine its first loss regular-season loss since 2024.

Mya Engbers came up big down the stretch, knocking down three 3-pointers in the second half to finish with 16 points. Brooke Smalldon and Madden Fitzpatrick added 12 and 13 points, respectively.

The win capped a perfect 3-0 week for the Lady Bulldogs.

Otsego opened the week Monday, Feb. 2, with a 58-53 non-conference win over Marshall.

The Bulldogs built a lead as large as 16 points before Marshall rallied to make it close late. But Otsego was able to hang on for a quality win against a tough opponent from a strong conference.

Smalldon scored 23 points, while Audrey Lingbeek had 11.

The week continued Friday, Feb. 6, with a 44-31 Wolverine Conference road win at Edwardsburg.

Despite beating Edwardsburg by 30 earlier in the season, Otsego found itself in a tight contest for much of the night. The Bulldogs led by just one score entering the final five minutes before pulling away late to secure the win.

The victory was notable as Otsego's first at Edwardsburg since 2017.

Smalldon scored a team-best 16 points.

Brooke Smalldon eyes the basket in a recent game for Otsego. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Allegan swim & dive wins two more meets

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Allegan boys swim and dive team continued its undefeated run in conference competition last week, earning a pair of victories over South Haven and Marshall to stay perfect in the SCC.

The Tigers most recently picked up a hard-fought 96–86 win over South Haven on Thursday, Feb. 5, in one of the most competitive and energetic meets of the season. With the outcome in doubt until the final events, Allegan relied on its depth and relay strength to secure the team victory.

Allegan swept all three relay events, a difference-maker in the close meet. The 200 medley relay of Sam Kelley, Corbin Chopp, Cadel Conrad and Oliver Burnett set the tone, while the 200 freestyle relay (Sam Kelley, Josh Kelley, Chopp, Burnett) and 400 freestyle relay (John DeLaet, Noah Greig, Ezra Smith, Conrad) added crucial points late.

Burnett turned in one of the night's biggest highlights, qualifying for the MHSAA State Championships in the 100 butterfly with a time of 56.87. Burnett has now qualified in three events this season, adding the butterfly to his already-qualified 50 and 100 freestyle, and also captured first place in the 50 freestyle.

Other individual winners against South Haven included Josh Kelley, who swept the 100 and 200 freestyle, Conrad in the 500 freestyle, Chopp in the 100 breaststroke and Sam Kelley in the 100 backstroke.

Allegan also picked up key points with additional top-three finishes from DeLaet in the 200 and 100 freestyle, Smith in the 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke, Conrad in the 200 IM and a second medley relay team of Gabe Thorsen, Josh Kelley, Smith and DeLaet.

Earlier in the week, Allegan opened the stretch with a 92–73 victory over Marshall on Tuesday, Feb. 3, highlighted by several standout performances.

Conrad qualified for the state meet in the 100 butterfly with a time of 55.08, while Josh Kelley delivered a big night in the 500 freestyle, winning the event in 5:31.54 and cutting 14 seconds off his previous personal best. Kelley also won the 50 freestyle.

Burnett added two individual victories against Marshall, taking first in both the 200 and 100 freestyle, while Chopp won the 200 individual medley.

The Tigers also swept the freestyle relays against Marshall, winning the 200 freestyle relay (Ezra Smith, Noah Greig, Chopp, Burnett) and the 400 freestyle relay (Kelley, DeLaet, Thorsen, Conrad).

With the two wins, Allegan improved to 6–0 in conference competition, continuing to build momentum as the postseason approaches.

Otsego boys basketball team drops trio of games

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Otsego's boys basketball team endured a difficult week in the win-loss column, dropping three games and slipping to 5-10 overall and 3-7 in the Wolverine Conference. But Bulldogs coach Matt Dennis said the group's effort and growth remain evident.

"The record might not show it, but I'm proud of how our guys are showing up and going to work every day," Dennis said. "We've been right there in a lot of games."

The Bulldogs closed the week with a 60-51 road loss at Edwardsburg on Friday, Feb. 6. Otsego stayed within striking distance before Edwardsburg pulled away late, a familiar theme during a stretch in which the Bulldogs have often held second-half leads.

Leeland Longcore scored 26 points in the loss, while Owen Santman had 13.

Two nights earlier, Otsego faced Benton Harbor on Wednesday, Feb. 4, and fell 91-46.

While Benton Harbor proved difficult to slow down, Dennis noted that outside of that game, the Bulldogs have consistently played competitive basketball.

"If you take out the Benton Harbor game, we've been right there," Dennis said. "We've had second-half leads against teams like Niles and Sturgis, and it's been the same story."

The week opened with a home loss to Marshall on Monday, Feb. 3. Otsego trailed by six at halftime and matched Marshall's scoring in the second half but couldn't make enough plays down the stretch to close the gap.

Longcore (20 points), Santman (15) and Wyatt Dennis (14) did the majority of scoring for Otsego.

Matt Dennis said cutting down on turnovers has been a key area of progress.

"That's what's given us a chance to be in games," he said. "Now it's about learning how to control the game when we have a lead."

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Blanchard, Gyorkos reign with fourth league titles

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PLAINWELL—Winning a conference championship once is hard enough.

Winning four? That's something else entirely.

That kind of consistency leaves no margin for error—no off day, no slip-up—and yet that's exactly what a pair of local wrestlers accomplished Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Wolverine Conference Championship meet.

Otsego's Lane Blanchard (157 pounds) and Plainwell's Austin Gyorkos (144) each claimed their fourth consecutive conference titles, etching their names into league history.

Gyorkos capped his run in emphatic fashion, pinning Three Rivers' Ethan Moreland in the second period to secure his fourth championship.

Blanchard made a statement of his own, earning a 15–0 technical fall over Vicksburg's Breckin Meeks in the second period of the finals.

Those performances highlighted a strong day for both Otsego and Plainwell at the eight-team meet, which was won by Three Rivers with 242 points. Plainwell finished second with 146.5 points, while Otsego placed third with 114.

Both programs produced additional conference champions: two for Otsego and one for Plainwell.

Otsego senior Ryder Balkema captured the title at 285 pounds, pinning Niles' Chase Brawley in the third period. Junior Zeke Andrina added another championship for the Bulldogs at 132, earning a 19–3 technical fall over Vicksburg's Hunter Smith in the second period.

Plainwell's Dylan Nieuwenhuis claimed the title at 120, winning by 17–1 technical fall over Three Rivers' Kyler Snellenbarger in the second period.

Beyond the champions, several wrestlers from both schools reached the podium.

For Otsego, Connor Mitchell placed third at 113, Mason Fitzpatrick finished fourth at 144, Blake Mathieu took fourth at 150, and Jose Serrano earned second place at 215.

Plainwell added multiple placers as well, including Grady Erlandsen (second at 126), Brennan Dull (third at 132), Logan Miller (third at 138), Thomas Almaguer (second at 150), Aiden Beck (third at 165), Carter Ritchie (third at 215), and Chase Bergsma (fourth at 285).

While Three Rivers ultimately claimed the team championship, the meet will be remembered locally for a rare accomplishment — two wrestlers, from rival programs, finishing their conference careers the same way every year: on top.

Hamilton wrestling performs well at league meets

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Hamilton wrestling program turned in an impressive two-day showing at its conference tournaments.

The Hawkeyes finished runner-up at the OK Black Tournament on Friday, Feb. 6, and the girls tied for fourth place the following day at the OK Conference Girls Tournament.

"Overall, I was really pleased with the effort this weekend, especially given the tough competition at both tournaments," Hamilton coach Trenton Holyfield said.

The Hamilton boys were locked in a tight battle for the OK Black Conference title and finished second with 166 points, just 1.5 points behind champion Spring Lake (167.5).

Zeeland East placed third with 153 points, followed by Holland (139.5), Zeeland West (128) and host Unity Christian (57).

Hamilton crowned four individual conference champions, led by the Morrison brothers, who delivered decisive performances in the finals.

At 132 pounds, Chase Morrison powered his way to a conference title with an 18-3 technical fall over Aiden Segovia of Holland in the second period. His brother, Bryce Morrison, followed with an emphatic victory at 150 pounds, pinning Jason Liu of Spring Lake in just 1:01 of the first period.

Senior Weston Geerlings added another championship for the Hawkeyes at 120 pounds, earning an 11-2 major decision over Reid Wesley of Spring Lake in the finals.

Hamilton's fourth title came at 175 pounds, where Tyler Block edged Mason Troyer of Spring Lake by a 5-3 decision in a tightly contested championship bout.

Other top finishers for Hamilton included Broden Van Wieren (126, second), Brandon Tucker (heavyweight, second), Brayden Stezowski (165, third), Luke Vise (190, third) and Austin Paskvan (157, fourth).

The Hamilton girls followed with a strong showing at the OK Conference Girls Tournament, tying for fourth place out of 24 teams with 42 points. Grand Haven won the team title with 52 points, followed by Rockford (48) and West Ottawa (44).

Hamilton crowned two conference champions on the girls side.

At 125 pounds, Korrayah Kapenga claimed first place by pinning Margaret Young of Grand Haven in the first period. At 140 pounds, Alyssa Volkers added another title, pinning Anna-Lena Scholz of Rockford in the first period.

Hamilton also received podium finishes from Abbi Verhoeven (115, third) and Mykayla Provance (120, third). Eryn Barnhill (125) and Brianna Ortiz (145) also competed and gained valuable postseason experience.

With the conference tournaments complete, Hamilton now turns its focus to the postseason as the MHSAA tournament series approaches.

"We're building momentum," Holyfield said. "It's all about carrying this

Nieuwenhuis leads local girls wrestlers

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PLAINWELL--In a tournament that highlighted both the rapid growth and rising level of girls wrestling in Southwest Michigan, Plainwell's Madison Nieuwenhuis once again stood at the center of it.

Nieuwenhuis, a nationally ranked wrestler, captured a championship at 105 pounds on Friday, Feb. 6, leading area competitors at the Southwest Girls Conference Tournament hosted by Plainwell.

The event featured more than 200 wrestlers from 44 teams, making it one of the largest girls wrestling tournaments in the region this season.

Originally organized as a Wolverine Conference event, the tournament expanded to include teams from the SMAC and SAC, giving athletes more matches and a deeper level of competition as the sport continues to grow.

Nieuwenhuis was one of four Allegan County wrestlers to claim titles. She won her 105-pound final by pinning Abigail Judy of Marshall at the 1:13 mark of the first period.

Allegan's Miya Carter earned a title at 125 pounds, pinning Abby Robinson of Constantine in the second period. Otsego's Marissa Podewell claimed gold at 125B with a first-period pin of Plainwell's Kayden Root, while Plainwell's Evangeline Coutu secured the 135-pound championship with a 5–3 decision over Brooklyn Woollett of Watervliet.

Plainwell finished runner-up in the team standings with 163.5 points, trailing only Hastings. Otsego placed fourth with 117.5 points, while Allegan finished 10th with 48.5 points.

Fennville placed 29th with 15 points, and Martin finished 36th with six points.

Several other area wrestlers also reached the podium.

Second-place finishers included Root at 125B, Otsego's Sophia Pierce at 115 pounds, Plainwell's Avery Lynch at 130 and Otsego's Riley Watson at 170.

Third-place finishers were Plainwell's Aurora Wanamaker at 100, Plainwell's Sophia Vega at 125 and Otsego's Audrey Holmes at 190.

Fourth-place finishers included Plainwell's Alayna Foote at 120 and Otsego's Adalyn Lucas at 145.

Next up for the girls wrestlers is the MHSAA Individual District Tournament, scheduled for Feb. 15.

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Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Emily Capitano-Kosanke and Steven Kosanke, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Date of Mortgage: January 29, 2021
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 9, 2021
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $122,446.05
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: The West 1/2 Lot 28 of Gores Addition and Lot 29 of Gores Addition, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, on Page 27, Allegan County Records.
Common street address (if any): 1053 Bloomfield Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-1505
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
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This notice is from a debt collector.
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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Joseph J. Laroy Married Man and Pricilla Laroy, His Wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, dated September 27, 2004, and recorded September 30, 2004 in Liber 2738, Page 108, in Allegan County records, Michigan, and assigned to Household Finance Corporation III by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on November 12, 2008 in Liber 3275, Page 667, and assigned to Household Finance Corporation III by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on April 10, 2012 in Liber 3607, Page 376, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on February 24, 2014 in Liber 3816, Page 688, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of the FW Series I Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on May 12, 2020 in Liber 4461, Page 226, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety One and 42/100 dollars ($133,591.42). Said premises are situated in the Township of Otsego, County of Allegan, and State of Michigan, and particularly described as: Lot 5, Oak View Farm, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 15 of Plats, Page 66, Allegan County Records. Property Address:282 Zak Road, Plainwell, MI 49080 Parcel No.: 17-660-005-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 29, 2026 For more information, please call: (513) 444-4100 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2410006 - Laroy, Joseph J.
(01-29)(02-19)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, March 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Scott C. Goodman a married man & Maria Goodman, his wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC DBA Vamortgagecenter.com DBA Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated December 30, 2011, and recorded on January 10, 2012, in Liber 3580, Page 323, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 15, 2025 and recorded October 15, 2025 in Liber 5077, Page 854, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Four and 93/100 ($154,174.93) including interest at the rate of 3.75000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of MANLIUS, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot(s) 11 of Greenfield Estates according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 14 of Plats, Page 20 of Allegan County Records And Part of the Northeast 1/4 and part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 1, Town 3 North, Range 15

Notice
of Public Hearing
The Residents of Overisel Township
Allegan County, Michigan

County of Allegan, Michigan
A4307 144th Avenue, Holland, MI 49423
Phone: 269 751-7030, Fax: 269 751-5405

Attention: You are receiving this notice because you are within 300' of the property of Mitch & Laura Lengkeek Lot B Trestle Bridge Lane (18-031-043-03)

Notice of Public hearing before the Overisel Township Appeal Board on Monday March 2, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Overisel Township Hall A-4307, 144th Avenue, Holland, MI 49423 to consider the following matter:

At the request of Mitch & Laura Lengkeek:
A Variance is being requested to build a home with a 20' front yard setback from the cal de sac end of road turn around while maintaining a 50' set back from the main road right of way.

Written Comments will be received concerning these requests at the Overisel Township Office through 5pm the date of the hearing or may be emailed to the Overisel Township ZBA chairman at windegw@gmail.com.

Any other questions or concerns can be called into at the Overisel Township Office at 269 751-7030

NOTICE
MONTEREY TOWNSHIP
2026 BOARD OF REVIEW

TO ALL TOWNSHIP TAXPAYERS:
THE 2026 BOARD OF REVIEW FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTEREY WILL MEET AT THE MONTEREY COMMUNITY BUILDING, 2999 30TH STREET, ON

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

HEARING APPEALS
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026
from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
and
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026
from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The tentative recommended equalization ratios and estimated multipliers (factors) necessary to compute state equalized values of real and personal property in the Township of Monterey for 2026 are:

CLASS RATIO	(%)	MULTIPLIER
AGRICULTURAL	44.40	1.1261
COMMERCIAL	44.07	1.1346
INDUSTRIAL	45.84	1.0908
RESIDENTIAL	44.63	1.1203
PERSONAL	50.00	1.00000

By Board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided the protest letter is received by the Assessor before 5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 6, 2026. For an appointment please call (269) 358-8727.

Brian Busscher
Monterey Township Assessor
2999 30th St.
Allegan, MI 49010
269/793-2014 x 4

NOTICE
Valley Township
2026 Board of Review

The Valley Township Board of Review will be held at the Valley Township Hall, 2054 N. M-40, Allegan, MI 49010, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 3, 11 AM – Organizational Meeting only
Tuesday, March 10, 9 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 4 PM – Appeal Hearing
Friday, March 13, 1 PM to 4 PM and 6 PM to 9 PM – Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2026 assessments. Letters are accepted as appeal, provided they are received prior to the first appeal hearing. Send letter to the Valley Township Board of Review, 2054 N. M-40, Allegan, MI 49010.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2026 as provided by the Allegan County Equalization Department are as follows:

Agricultural	43.64%	1.14573
Commercial	50.30%	0.99403
Industrial	49.14%	1.00000
Residential	47.86%	1.04471
Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000

State Equalized Value (SEV) represents 50% of the True Cash Value of the property. Taxable Value (TV) is the lower of the SEV or the 2025 TV multiplied by the Inflation Rate Multiplier (1.027). Transfers of ownership in 2025 will cause the cap in taxable value to be removed, making the taxable value equal to the SEV for 2026.

Mike Krcatovich
Valley Township Supervisor

Krista Simmons
Valley Township Assessor

CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
EAGLE LAKE IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026 PUBLIC HEARING ON 2026-2030 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLANS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESHIRE, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN; OWNERS OF PROPERTY ABUTTING AND/OR WITH DEEDED ACCESS TO EAGLE LAKE IN CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP; AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Cheshire Township Board is proposing an Eagle Lake improvement project in 2026-2030 for the eradication and control of aquatic weeds and plants in Eagle Lake financed by special assessments on the properties within the Eagle Lake Improvement Special Assessment District as reestablished in 2021 for an indefinite term. The Township Board is proposing to proceed with this project on its own initiative and pursuant to the request of interested property owners for the Township to continue to be involved in the improvement of Eagle Lake through multi-year projects that began in 2006 and were continued through 2025.

The existing Eagle Lake Improvement Special Assessment District within which the cost of the foregoing improvements is proposed to be specially assessed is described as follows:

All lots/parcels abutting and/or with deeded access to Eagle Lake in Cheshire Township, Allegan County, State of Michigan.

Note: This Cheshire Township special assessment district does not include any property in adjoining Bloomingdale Township in VanBuren County, within which a small portion of Eagle Lake is located, because Cheshire Township does not have special assessment jurisdiction over such properties. The Bloomingdale Township Board may administer a similar special assessment project for the portion of Eagle Lake in that township.

The Township Board has received plans for the anticipated aquatic vegetation control project in 2026-2030, together with an estimate of the costs of the project in the amount of $85,456.80 (85.8% of $99,600.00 for the entire lake, including the portion in Bloomingdale Township), and has placed the plans on file with the Township Clerk. The Township has added to the Cheshire Township share of the plan costs a 5% contingency for unanticipated expenses, in the amount of $4,272.84; and the Township has further estimated the legal and administrative expenses of the 2026 special assessment process and administering the special assessment district to be approximately $7,000. The total estimated 2026-2030 project cost for Cheshire Township is therefore $96,792.64.

The Township Board at its January 20, 2026 meeting passed a Resolution tentatively declaring its intention to proceed with the 2026-2030 project. A public hearing on this improvement project and the estimated costs of same will be held at the Cheshire Township Hall at 471 41st just north of 104th Avenue, Cheshire, Michigan, on February 17, 2026 in conjunction with a regular meeting of the Township Board beginning at 6:30 p.m.

At this hearing/meeting the Board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters which are filed with the Board prior to or at the hearing, as well as any corrections or changes to the plans or estimate of costs. The project plans, estimate of costs, and the boundaries of the existing special assessment district may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk and may further be examined at the public hearing.

If the Township Board determines to proceed with the 2026-2030 improvement project a second public hearing will be held at a later date to be set by the Township Board (tentatively March 17, 2026 at the regular Township Board meeting) for the purpose of reviewing and hearing objections to the proposed 2026-2030 special assessment roll allocating the costs of the project among the various properties included in the special assessment district. Appearance and protest at such a second public hearing or as otherwise allowed by 1962 PA 162, as amended, is required in order to preserve a right to appeal the amount of any such special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of a special assessment roll. Formal notice of any such second public hearing will be published in a newspaper and mailed to affected property owners as required by law. A re-determination of the actual costs to be assessed for 2027-2030 may be made by the Township Board on an annual basis without further Notice if allowed by law. A proposed special assessment roll for a continuation project in any years subsequent to 2030 will not be approved without new cost estimates and a further hearing thereon.

Note: the Township Board tentatively anticipates proposing special assessments for the 2026-2030 project in the amount of $1,289.73 (payable in 5 equal rounded annual installments of $257.95) for lots/parcels abutting Eagle Lake, and $644.85 (payable in 5 equal rounded annual installments of $128.97) for lots/parcels with deeded access to Eagle Lake. The Township Board also presently anticipates applying to the 2026-2030 improvement project any retained revenue surplus from the improvement project in 2021-2025, after a final accounting for this project has been completed.

The foregoing hearings and all proceedings associated with these special assessment matters will be conducted in accordance with and pursuant to 1954 PA 188, as amended, the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and any other applicable law.

Cheshire Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting/hearing to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered, upon reasonable notice to the Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk as designated below.

Jodi Pinnell, Clerk
Cheshire Township
1061 37th Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 521-3440

Public Notices

West Manlius Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at the Southwest corner of Lot 9, Greenfield Estates, Manlius Township, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence South 87 degrees 58 minutes 30 seconds East 330.00 feet along the South line of said Greenfield Estates, to the Southeast corner of Lot 11 of said Greenfield Estates; thence South 41 degrees 07 minutes 38 seconds West 151.63 feet; thence South 05 degrees 46 minutes 50 seconds West 1660 feet more or less to the waters edge of the Rabbit River; thence Westerly and Southwesterly 129 feet more or less to a point on the West line of Lot 9 extended of said Greenfield Estates, bearing South 02 degrees 01 minutes 30 seconds West from the Point of Beginning; thence North 02 degrees 01 minutes 30 seconds East 1805 feet more or less along said line, to the Point of Beginning. Commonly known as: 4842 GREEN RIDGE TRAIL, HAMILTON, MI 49419 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: January 29, 2026 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00900-1

(01-29)(02-19)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
Case No. 25-71375-CK
HON. MATTHEW ANTKOVIAK
JOMAR PROPERTIES, LLC, a Michigan Limited liability company,
Plaintiff,
V
TIMOTHY COUNTERMAN, an individual,
Defendant.
Natashka W. Fris (P72565)
CUNNINGHAM DALMAN, P.C.
Attorneys for Defendant
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-1821
natashka@cunninghamdalman.com
ORDER FOR ALTERNATE SERVICE

At a session of said Court, held in the Circuit Court in the City of Allegan, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, this 7 day of Jan., 2026.

PRESENT: Honorable Matthew Antkoviak, Circuit Court Judge.

THIS MATTER involving a claim for monetary damages resulting from damage to the real property located at 4684 Oak Street, Hamilton, Michigan, 49419, caused by Timothy Counterman, having come before the court by Motion of Plaintiff, the Court being advised in the premises, and the Court finds that service of process upon the Defendant cannot be reasonably made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard. Defendants must answer the Complaint filed in this Court within 28 days of the date of FINAL publication of this notice. Failure to answer may result in a default judgment against Defendants or other negative action.

IT IS ORDERED THAT ALTERNATE SERVICE may be made on Defendant by first-class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the Defendant, but shall also be done by tacking said summons and complaint to the door of the last known address of Defendant and via publication pursuant to MCR 2.106(D).

Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
Honorable Matthew Antkoviak, Circuit Court Judge
THIS DOCUMENT PREPARED BY:
Natashka W. Fris (P72565)
CUNNINGHAM DALMAN, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiffs
321 Settlers Rd.
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-1821
natashka@cunninghamdalman.com
ATTEST A TRUE COPY
Brenda L Thomas
Deputy Clerk
1-29 2-12

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Derek Gentry, a single man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PHH Asset Services LLC

Date of Mortgage: June 5, 2025

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 2, 2025

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $293,968.98

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Ganges, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the West 1/4 post of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 16 West, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan; thence North on the West Section line, 308.02 feet; thence South 88 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds East, 1062.00 feet to the place of beginning of this description; thence North parallel with the West Section line, 347.00 feet to the North line of the South 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4; thence South 88 degrees 52 minutes 56 seconds East on same, 1243.67 feet; thence 110.00 feet around a curve to the right with a radius of 68,564.94 feet and a chord that bears South 00 degrees 02 minutes 18 seconds - East, 110.00 feet; thence South 88 degrees 52 minutes 56 seconds East, 40.01 feet to the Westerly line of 1-196 highway; thence along said Westerly line 235.80 feet around a curve to the right with a radius of 68,604.94 feet and a chord that bears South 00 degrees 06 minutes 24 seconds West, 235.80 feet; thence North 88 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds West, 1283.29 feet to the place of beginning.

Together with an easement for ingress-egress and public utilities over a 66 foot wide strip of land with turnaround described as beginning on the West line of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 16 West at a point 449.46 feet North of the West 1/4 post of the Section; thence North on the Section line, 67.39 feet; thence South 78 degrees 20 minutes 00 seconds East 188.00 feet; thence South 45 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, 193.50 feet; thence South 88 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds East, 954.04 feet; thence 242.09 feet around a curve to the right with a radius of 50

feet and a chord that bears South 01 degree 03 minutes 53 seconds West, 66.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds West 980.66 feet; thence North 45 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, 200.36 feet; thence North 78 degrees 20 minutes 00 seconds West, 154.61 feet to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 6953 Conklin Ln, Fennville, MI 49408-9795

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 29, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1583019
(01-29)(02-19)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on 3/19/2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Christopher Madalinski and Brandi Madalinski. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Guaranteed Rate, Inc. Date of mortgage: 5/6/2022. Mortgage recorded on 7/27/2022 as Document No. 2022014735, in Liber 4782, Page 776. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $58,292.34 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PREMISES SITUATED IN THE CITY OF ALLEGAN, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN AND STATE OF MICHIGAN, TO-WIT: PARCEL 1: BEGINNING AT THE WESTERLY MOST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK "F" OF JAMES B. STREETER'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN; THENCE NORTH 39 DEGREES 19' 33" EAST 89.65 FEET (PLATTED AS NORTH 39 DEGREES 30" EAST), ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF JULIA STREET; THENCE SOUTH 56 DEGREES 12' 02" EAST, 132.69 FEET TO THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE SOUTH 39 DEGREES 12' 34" WEST, ON SAID SOUTHEASTERLY LOT LINE, 88.62 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY MOST CORNER OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE NORTH 56 DEGREES 38' 07" WEST, ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, 132.97 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. AND PARCEL 2: COMMENCING AT THE WESTERLY MOST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK "F" OF JAMES B. STREETER'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN; RUNNING THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, 192 FEET, THENCE DUE WEST 148.3 FEET TO A POINT WHICH IS 231 FEET EAST OF THE EAST 1/8TH IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, THENCE DUE NORTH 132 FEET TO THE CENTER OF JULIA STREET, IF EXTENDED, THENCE EASTERLY ALONG SAID CENTERLINE 14 FEET, THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY 33 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST. Commonly known as 313 Julia St, Allegan, MI 49010. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 02/05/2026. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-25-00248

(02-05)(02-26)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on MARCH 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jackson D. Hasty, an unmarried man, to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC., Mortgagee, dated January 9, 2017 and recorded January 12, 2017 in Liber 4104, Page 805 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, National Association as successor by merger to FIFTH THIRD MORTGAGE COMPANY, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-One Thousand and 94/100 Dollars ($121,000.94).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on MARCH 19, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Martin, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

THAT PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 3, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, MARTIN TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT FOUND BY COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 90° 00'00" WEST ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 495.24 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 90° 00'00" WEST ON SAID SOUTH SECTION LINE, 165.07 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00° 01'40" EAST PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH AND SOUTH 1/8 LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST 1/4, 622.81 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION; THENCE NORTH 89° 57'11" EAST ON SAID NORTH LINE, 165.15 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00° 02'05" WEST 662.75 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

421 122nd Ave, Shelbyville, Michigan 49344

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: February 5, 2026
File No. 26-000826
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(02-05)(02-26)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Michael Kuhn a married man and Jami Kuhn his wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services LLC

Date of Mortgage: May 22, 2014

Date of Mortgage Recording: June 2, 2014

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $99,936.22

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Dorr, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at the center of Section 20, Town 4 North, Range 12 West; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East on the North and South 1/4 line 301.77 feet; thence South 89 degrees 44 minutes 30 seconds West 340.0 feet; thence North 48 degrees 15 minutes 53 seconds East 455.62 feet to the Place of B.

Common street address (if any): 4092 21st St, Dorr, MI 49323-9471

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

WAYLAND TOWNSHIP
PO Box 1
Bradley, MI 49311
269-792-6394
Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

The Wayland Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, at the township hall, 1060 129th Avenue, Shelbyville, MI on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 1060 129th Avenue, Shelbyville, MI.

The Wayland Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon ten (10) days notice to the Wayland Township Board. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Bob Fryling, Township Clerk at PO Box 1, Bradley, MI 49311 or by calling 269-792-6394 or email at clerk@waytwp.org

Notice complies with MCL 141.436 and MCL 211.24c

Robert Fryling
Wayland Township Clerk

NOTICE

TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF PLAINWELL BOARD OF REVIEW MARCH 2026

Tuesday, March 03, 2026 -
9:30am - Organizational meeting (no hearings)
Location: Plainwell City Hall Conference Room
211 N. Main St.
Plainwell, MI 49080

Monday, March 09, 2026 -
1:00pm - 4:00pm and 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 -
9:00am - 12:00pm and 2:00pm - 7:00pm
Location: Plainwell Department of Public Safety
119 Island Ave.
Plainwell, MI 49080

The Board will meet on the dates and times stated above for the purpose of hearing appeals to the 2026 assessments.

Hearings are by appointment. To make an appointment, call (269) 685-6821 Monday through Friday from 8:00am - 4:00pm.

Beginning Ratios and factors are:

Commercial Ratio	45.62%	Factor: 1.0960
Industrial Ratio	38.08%	Factor: 1.3130
Residential Ratio	47.35%	Factor: 1.0559

Michael Richmond, Assessor
City of Plainwell

GANGES TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ganges Township Board of Review will meet at the Town Hall, 1904 64th St, Fennville, MI 49408 on the following dates:

March 3, 2026 5:30 pm - Organizational Meeting
March 9, 2026 2:00pm - 5:00pm & 6:00pm - 9:00pm - Appeals Meeting
March 10, 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:00pm - Appeals Meeting

Please call or email for an appointment to appear before the Board of Review. Letter appeals are accepted and must be filed with the Assessor prior to 5:00pm, March 9th. All appeals are required to submit form L-4035 – Petition to Board of Review.

The 2026 tentative ratios and multiplying factors are listed by class as set by the Allegan County Equalization Department as follows:

Agricultural	37.73 / 1.32521
Commercial	41.67 / 1.19990
Industrial	42.25 / 1.18343
Residential	45.01 / 1.11086
Personal Property	50.00 / 1.00000

Heather Jahr
Ganges Township Assessor
(616) 970-7820 •gangesassessor@gmail.com

LEE TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lee Township Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 877 56th St, Pullman, MI 49450 on the following dates:

March 3, 2026 6:30pm - Organizational Meeting
March 9, 2026 2:00pm - 5:00pm & 6:00pm - 9:00pm - Appeals Meeting
March 10, 2026 11:00am - 2:00pm & 3:00pm - 6:00pm - Appeals Meeting

Please call or email for an appointment to appear before the Board of Review. Letter appeals are accepted and must be filed with the Assessor prior to 5:00pm, March 9th, 2026. All appeals are required to submit form L-4035 – Petition to Board of Review.

Please note, the Monday March 9th evening session of the March Board of Review will be held concurrently, but separately, from the Township Board meeting beginning at 7:30pm.

The 2026 tentative ratios and multiplying factors are listed by class as set by the Allegan County Equalization Department as follows:

Agricultural	43.71 / 1.14390
Commercial	47.35 / 1.05597
Industrial	44.27 / 1.12943
Residential	44.72 / 1.11807
Personal Property	50.00 / 1.00000

Heather Jahr
Lee Township Assessor
(616) 970-7820
leeassessor1@gmail.com

NOTICE

WATSON TOWNSHIP
2026 Board of Review

TO ALL TOWNSHIP TAXPAYERS: The 2026 Board of Review of the Township of Watson will meet at the Watson Township Hall, 1895 118th Ave., Allegan, MI on

Organizational Meeting:
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:00pm
Organizational meeting only, no tax protest at this meeting.

TAX PROTEST WILL BE HEARD:

Monday, March 16, 2026	Tuesday, March 17, 2026
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm	6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

At which time the board of review will hear protest relative to assessments for 2026 and will, upon presentation of sufficient evidence, correct the assessments in a manner as will, in their judgement, make it relatively just as equal.

The tentative factors of the Township of Watson for 2026 are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Agriculture	42.01	1.19019
Commercial	42.21	1.18455
Industrial	33.94	1.47319
Residential	48.87	1.02312
Developmental	NC	NC
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Please direct all written, faxed or e-mailed replies to:

Watson Township Supervisor, Kevin Travis
1895 118th Ave.
Allegan, MI 49010
Fax: 269-672-5488
Email: supervisor@watsontownshipmi.gov

All written replies must be received no later than Monday, March 09, 2026

Public Notices

person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 5, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1584172
(02-05)(02-26)

MORTGAGE SALE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on March 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of that certain Mortgage dated November 9, 2022 ("Mortgage"), made by EVO SAUGATUCK HOLDINGS LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, as mortgagor ("Mortgagor") to REDLAND HOLDINGS, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, as mortgagee ("Mortgagee"), recorded on November 15, 2022 in Liber 4816, Page 344, Allegan County Records; on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due, as of February 5, 2026, the sum of Two Million Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Nine and 63/100 Dollars ($2,583,459.63) ("Indebtedness") as of the date of this Mortgage Sales Notice. The mortgaged premises are described as follows: land, fixtures, easements and improvements situated in the Township of Saugatuck, Allegan County, Michigan, described as follows: PARCEL A: That part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 21, Town 3 North, Range 16 West, Saugatuck Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the West 1/4 corner of said Section; thence South 00°39'57" East 719.78 feet along the West line of said Section to the South line of the North 66.00 feet of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section; thence North 89°10'09" East 85.00 feet along said South line to the East right of way line of Blue Star Highway and the Point of Beginning; thence continuing North 89°10'09" East 400.00 feet; thence South 00°39'57" East 300.00 feet; thence South 89°10'09" West 400.00 feet to said East right of way line; thence North 00°39'57" West 300.00 feet along said right of way line to the Point of Beginning. TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO a 66.00 foot wide easement for ingress, egress and utilities over that part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 21, Town 3 North, Range 16 West, Saugatuck Township, Allegan County, Michigan, the centerline of which is described as: Commencing at the West 1/4 corner of said Section; thence South 00°39'57" East 686.78 feet along the West line of said Section to the South line of the North 33.00 feet of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section and the Point of Beginning; thence North 89°10'09" East 452.00 feet along said South line; thence South 00°39'57" East 634.00 feet to the Point of Ending of said centerline. Tax Parcel No: 20-021-026-20 Common Address: 6790 Just Barns Drive, Fennville, MI 49408-8100 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or if determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c); or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated February 5, 2026, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan Redland Holdings, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company Mortgagee Honigman LLP By: Jeffrey S. Horowitz Attorneys for Mortgagee 39400 Woodward Avenue Suite 101 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5151 (248) 566-8686
(02-05)(02-26)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on MARCH 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Kyle L. Rayburn, to PNC Bank, N.A., Mortgagee, dated October 8, 2021 and recorded October 15, 2021 in Liber 4683, Page 972 Allegan County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Sixty and 2/100 Dollars ($183,360.02).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on MARCH 19, 2026.

Said premises are located in the City of Otsego, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

LOT 51, ELEY ACRES III, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 14 OF PLATS, PAGE 11, ALLEGAN COUNTY RECORDS.

1009 Barton Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: February 5, 2026
File No. 26-000606
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(02-05)(02-26)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, TRUST ESTATE

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, Roscoe A. Johnson 12-24-1937, who lived at 3093 104th Ave. Allegan,

Michigan, died 1-4-2026. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Roscoe A. Johnson Trust dated, 9-1-2010 as amended, will be forever banned unless presented to ALICE LOSSIE or VIRGINIA HOPSON, Co-Successor Trustees, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: 2-6-26
ALICE LOSSIE
64157 41st St.
PAW PAW, MI. 49079
269-303-4862
Virginia Hopson
4789 118th
Fennville, Mi 49408
269-561-8929

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)

whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: Lindsay Sumer Hollar has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 2:30 PM at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: Lindsay Sumer Hollar to Lindsay Sumer London

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Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Danny G. Oxford and Vickie L. Oxford, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: PNC Bank, National Association, successor by merger to National City Bank, successor by merger to National City Mortgage, a division of National City Bank of Indiana

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None

Date of Mortgage: July 7, 2005

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 14, 2005

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $181,598.62

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Trowbridge, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land situated in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 35, Town 1 North, Range 13 West, Trowbridge Township, Allegan County, Michigan Described as: Beginning at the Point on the Eastline of Said Section 35 Distant North 00 Degrees 00 Minutes 30 seconds East 658.92 Feet from the East 1/4 Post of said section 35: Thence North 89 Degrees 41 minutes 13 seconds West 3295.28 Feet to the West Line of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Said Section 35. Thence North 00 Degrees 08 Minutes 14 seconds West Along said West Line of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 a distance of 330.00 Feet; Thence South 89 degrees 41 minutes 46 seconds East 3294.44 Feet to said East Section Line; Thence South 00 Degrees 00 Minutes 30 seconds along said East Section Line, 329.46 Feet to the place of beginning. Excepting therefrom that portion of land conveyed to Danny G. and Vicki L. Oxford by deed recorded September 28, 2010, In Book 3452, Page 794 of official records.

Common street address (if any): 132 26th St, Allegan, MI 49010-8779

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 12, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1584603
(02-12)(03-05)

TO ALL CREDITORS: The Settlor, Janice R. Pegg (date of birth November 15, 1941), who lived at 3675 Volkers Street, Hamilton, MI 49419, died on December 10, 2025. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Harold and Janice Pegg Trust, dated August 18, 2001, as amended and restated in its entirety on April 14, 2012, and as further as amended and restated in its entirety on October 8, 2024, will be forever banned unless presented to Trustee, Scott E. Pegg, within four months after the date of publication. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Date: February 4, 2026 ATTORNEY: Kristle A. Teague (P85631) Teeples and Teague Law, PLLC 230 Fulton Street E. – Suite J Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 776-7200 TRUSTEE: Scott E. Pegg 1924 Amanda Drive Jenison, MI 49428 (616) 460-6475
(02-12)

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS – Trust Estate of Charles M. Setter:

One of the Settlors and Grantors of the Setter Family Trust, dated January 12, 2015 (the "Trust"), Charles M. Setter, also known as Chuck Setter (date of birth, February 19, 1939), died January 9, 2026. There is no personal representative of the decedent's estate to whom letters of authority have been issued at this time.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent, his estate, and the Trust, will be forever barred unless presented to Helen J. Setter, Trustee, 2695 120th Ave., Allegan, Michigan 49010, and the Trustee's attorney, Matthew V. Piwowar, P.O. Box 221, Allegan, Michigan 49010, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Dated: 2-12-26
Trustee:
Helen J. Setter, Trustee
2695 120th Ave.
Allegan, Michigan 49010
Trustee's Attorney:
Matthew V. Piwowar, Esq.
P.O. Box 221
Allegan, Michigan 49010

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on MARCH 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Douglas J. Meisel, Jr., aka Douglas Meisel, aka Douglas John Meisel, a married man and Jacqueline M. Meisle, his spouse, as husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Independent Bank, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated January 10, 2020 and recorded January 16, 2020 in Instrument Number 2020-000590 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said

TOWNSHIP OF GANGES
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Ganges Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing and regular meeting concerning a variance request on Monday March 2, 2026 6:00 p.m. at the Ganges Township Hall, 1904 64th Street, Fennville.

Please take further notice that the matter to be considered at the public hearing include the following:

Carrie Hartgen has petitioned for variances to construct a home at 1335 Fabun Road 0307-205-001-00

1. Front setback (Fabun Road) required 40 feet; request 10 feet of relief (to be 30 ft from property line)
2. Front setback (Meadow Ave) required 40 feet; request 34 feet 6 inches of relief (to be 5ft 6in from property line)
3. South side setback, required 15 feet; request 9 feet 3 inches of relief (to be 5 feet 9 inches from property line)
4. Lot coverage, required 25%, request is to exceed by 5.5% (30.5%)

Written correspondence may be submitted to the Clerk at 1904 64th Street, Fennville, MI 49408 up to 4:00pm the day prior to the date of the hearing and may also be submitted at the hearing.

Anyone interested in reviewing the related application may contact the Zoning Administrator 1-800-626-5964 or email mtsallegan@frontier.com to request a digital copy.

Necessary and reasonable aids for disabled persons will made available with sufficient notice to the clerk.

Robin Phelps
1904 64th Street
Fennville MI 49408
269-543-8316

NOTICE

The Lee Township Board of Allegan County will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 during the Special Township Board Meeting at 877 56th Street, Pullman, MI 49450 on Saturday, March 28th, 2026 at 10 AM. ***The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing*.** A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the offices building at 877 56th Street, Pullman, MI 49450.

The Lee Township board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 7 days notice to the Lee Township board. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Lee Township board by writing or calling the following: (269) 236-6485.

Submitted by Lee Township Clerk,
Kathryn Blackburn,
email: clerk@leetwp.org

NOTICE
RESOLUTION 2026-02A-D TO ESTABLISH TOWNSHIP OFFICERS SALARY
(individual Resolutions 2026-02A to 2026-02D can be found at Wayland Township Offices 1060 129th Avenue, Shelbyville, MI)

WHEREAS, MCI 41.95 authorized the township board of Wayland Township to determine the salaries for the offices of supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and trustee(s) for fiscal year 2026-2027 by adopting a resolution for each office at least 30 days prior to the township annual meeting of the electors, and

WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and trustee is warranted in consideration of when township board members' salaries were last adjusted, cost of living, and now,

BE IT RESOLVED, that as of April 1, 2026, the salary of the office of supervisor, clerk, treasurer,and trustee shall be as follows:

Supervisor: $22,600 salary (not directly performing assessing)
Clerk: $30,725 salary
Treasurer: $25,800 salary
Trustee: $187 per Diem/meeting

Other employees who work hourly will receive a 3% increase.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be submitted to the electors at the annual meeting to be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at which time the electors may modify these amounts. Pursuant to MCL 41.95(7), such modifications(s) that may be made by the electors cannot result in a reduction of salary during the official's term of office unless the responsibilities and requirements of that office are diminished, and the official agrees in writing to the reduction. If the electors fail to act on this resolution, the officer shall be entitled to the salary as established in this resolution, in accordance with state law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, adopted February 2, 2026, is properly adopted by the Wayland Township Board at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting, as required by law.

Resolution 2026-02A-D was offered by Miner with support provided by VanVolkinburg.
Upon a roll call vote, the following voted:

VanVolkinburg	YES	Kamyszek	YES
Fryling	YES	Miner	YES
Stein	YES		

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted February 2, 2026

Robert Fryling
Wayland Township Clerk
February 3, 2026
269-792-6394

This form is based on the final ratios from the L-4018s filed with the STC

Allegan County 1/15/2026

Public Notice given under Public Act of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1971.

2026 Tentative Equalization Ratios and Multipliers by Classification

Government Unit	Agricultural		Commercial		Industrial		Residential		Developmental		Personal	
TOWNSHIPS	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier
Allegan	40.28	1.24131	45.69	1.09433	49.54	1.00929	45.42	1.10084	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Casco	44.63	1.12032	48.82	1.02417	34.46	1.45096	43.70	1.14416	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Cheshire	40.70	1.22850	41.71	1.19875	45.00	1.11111	43.66	1.14521	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Clyde	46.31	1.07968	47.36	1.05574	44.25	1.12994	43.33	1.15393	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Dorr	44.59	1.12133	51.28	0.97504	35.53	1.40726	47.73	1.04756	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Fillmore	42.20	1.18483	45.22	1.10571	44.34	1.12765	49.88	1.00241	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Ganges	37.73	1.32521	41.67	1.19990	42.25	1.18343	45.01	1.11086	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Gun Plain	40.17	1.24471	46.37	1.07828	44.48	1.12410	45.24	1.10522	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Heath	43.97	1.13714	44.50	1.12360	48.88	1.02291	46.57	1.07365	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Hopkins	41.58	1.20250	48.31	1.03498	45.29	1.10400	45.69	1.09433	44.08	1.13430	50.00	1.0000
Laketown	49.15	1.01729	46.52	1.07481	51.08	0.97886	46.85	1.06724	36.95	1.35318	50.00	1.0000
Lee	43.71	1.14390	47.35	1.05597	44.27	1.12943	44.72	1.11807	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Leighton	45.33	1.10302	48.93	1.02187	41.52	1.20424	45.55	1.09769	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Manlius	50.84	0.98348	41.98	1.19104	47.42	1.05441	44.02	1.13585	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Martin	38.65	1.29366	46.12	1.08413	48.73	1.02606	47.02	1.06338	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Monterey	44.40	1.12613	44.07	1.13456	45.84	1.09075	44.63	1.12032	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Otsego	42.93	1.16469	43.90	1.13895	41.52	1.20424	48.62	1.02838	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Overisel	45.79	1.09194	47.38	1.05530	45.51	1.09866	44.71	1.11832	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Salem	42.55	1.17509	49.10	1.01833	35.69	1.40095	44.17	1.13199	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Saugatuck	42.86	1.16659	47.01	1.06360	40.82	1.22489	46.13	1.08389	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Trowbridge	42.87	1.16632	39.21	1.27518	44.99	1.11136	46.98	1.06428	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Valley	43.64	1.14574	50.30	0.99404	49.14	1.01750	47.86	1.04471	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Watson	42.01	1.19019	42.21	1.18455	33.94	1.47319	48.87	1.02312	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Wayland	40.08	1.24750	45.12	1.10816	43.94	1.13792	45.86	1.09027	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITIES												
Allegan	NC	NC	46.06	1.08554	46.73	1.06998	47.35	1.05597	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Fennville	NC	NC	46.78	1.06883	50.50	0.99010	42.85	1.16686	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Holland	37.88	1.31996	47.27	1.05775	47.22	1.05887	46.72	1.07021	35.53	1.407261	50.00	1.0000
Otsego	NC	NC	46.55	1.07411	44.03	1.13559	47.37	1.05552	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Plainwell	45.62	1.09601	49.17	1.01688	38.08	1.31303	47.35	1.05597	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Wayland	NC	NC	47.58	1.05086	46.19	1.08249	44.97	1.11185	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
Saugatuck	NC	NC	43.53	1.14863	NC	NC	48.89	1.02270	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
South Haven	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	47.92	1.04341	NC	NC	NC	NC
Douglas	NC	NC	44.17	1.13199	46.96	1.06474	45.25	1.10497	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000

NC = None Classified

These tentative ratios and multipliers may be modified as a result of changes in assessed valuations by the Assessor and Board of Review.

Public Notices

mortgage is now held by PHH Asset Services LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Nine and 16/100 Dollars ($178,589.16).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on MARCH 19, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Orangeville, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

Unit No. 11, Whispering Pines Estates, Orangeville Township, Barry County, Michigan, according to the Master Deed recorded in Instrument No. 1023989, as amended, and designated as Barry County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 12, together with rights in the general common elements and the limited common elements as shown on the Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended.

6988 Lafountaine Dr, Plainwell, Michigan 49080

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: February 12, 2026
File No. 26-000018
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(02-12)(03-05)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-66004-DE and JUDGE Hon. Jolene A. Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Patricia Mae Ellis, Decedent
Date of Birth:*05/05/1948

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Patricia Mae Ellis, died 11/21/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Tanya Merica and Shannon Holder, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

2/6/2026
Rachael W. Roseman P78917
99 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 300
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 205-4420
Tanya Merica and Shannon Holder
756 Doster Road
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 377-6740

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Victoria R. Yelland Date of Birth: March 4, 1950

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Victoria R. Yelland, Settlor of the Victoria R. Yelland revocable Inter Vivos Trust dated May 12, 2016, as amended, died on December 18, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent, her estate, or her trust will be forever barred unless presented to Richard R. Harper, Trustee of the Victoria R. Yelland Revocable Inter Vivos Trust within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Daniel W. Borst
Warner Norcross & Judd LLP
150 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616.752.2000
Richard R. Harper
PO Box 186
Hamilton, MI 49419
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9	6	2	5	7	3	8	4	1
4	5	7	2	1	8	3	6	9
8	1	3	4	9	6	5	2	7
2	4	1	3	5	9	7	8	6
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7	8	6	1	2	4	9	3	5

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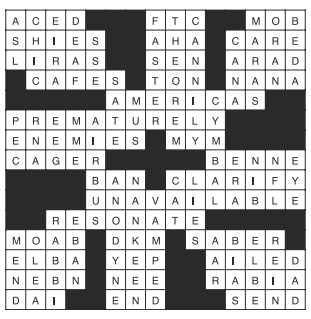

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RELIGION SECTION

We all know that time is both very static and fluid at the same time. Over the centuries we have carefully delineated precise measurements for time, and it does not vary. You and I have a different connection. If we are thoroughly enjoying something, it often seems as if it is over very quickly; if we are bored (and yes, that includes sitting in a pew during a long-winded sermon) time barely moves. Or, as children, it takes forever for our next birthday or Christmas; as adults, these events come far too quickly. It is all a matter of perception.

We certainly know that the older we get part of our mind tells us that time is speeding up, and our personal final countdown is ticking away as it runs down. This disconnection between static and fluid time potentially means we think we have more time and can always put things off until tomorrow, next week, next year, or whenever. We can't, really.

The other night I saw a podcast that brought what should be a quick end to our complacency about time. I want to pass it on to you.

For a moment, pretend it is years from now you are dying, and you hear a physician or nurse tell you that it is only a matter of hours before you will be dead. This is where it gets surrealistic: You get the opportunity to revisit one day in your life, but you do not get to choose. That sounds appealing, and immediately you think of big, milestone, special moments such as making the hole in one on the golf course, the winning touchdown, the day you got married, birth of your first child, and so on.

But remember, you don't get to choose. It is chosen for you. You find yourself going back in time through decades and years, and then months, and finally days. Finally, the dials quit spinning backwards and you realize it is this day. It is the day when you read this column. You look out the window and there is nothing seemingly special about the weather. There is nothing of great interest on your calendar except for a few errands, and the usual pablum on television. It is a routine day, either alone or with your family and people you see.

You think to yourself, 'well, this isn't any fun or very interesting,' but discover that you cannot change anything thing in your past. You are a spectator. You watch yourself as the minutes and hours tick by, thinking that maybe there is a surprise ending. But just before your body shuts down, you realize there is no surprise, and it is over.

The question for those who are reading this column is very challenging: Today, how are you going to truly live? How are you going to honor God, love and care for the people around you, and truly appreciate every moment of this day that God has given you? It's your choice to embrace it or squander it. It is your choice as to how widely you will open your mind and heart. Your choice. Yours alone, but keep in mind the clock is ticking.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
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www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
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www.mersonchurch.org

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Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
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Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
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